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NEARBY

'No increase in frequency of metro trains for now'

BENGALURU

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited officials maintain that the existing frequency of metro services are sufficient and there are no plans to increase the frequency of trains.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 3

7-day average TPR in city nearly doubles State's

BENGALURU

Although the COVID-19 situation in Karnataka is not alarming as of now, Bengaluru Urban continues to remain a hotspot. At 6.17%, the seven-day average test positivity rate (TPR) in Bengaluru Urban as on July 21 is nearly double the State average of 3.93%.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 4

Bescom starts replacing mechanical meters

BENGALURU

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company has finally begun the replacement of age-old electromechanical meters with digital electrostatic meters in the Bengaluru Metropolitan Area Zones.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 4

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ED arrests Bengal Minister in job scam

Partha Chatterjee sent to two-day custody; two aides held

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

The Enforcement Directorate on Saturday arrested West Bengal Industry and Commerce Minister and senior Trinamool Congress leader Partha Chatterjee in connection with irregularities in recruitment to the West Bengal School Service Commission.

Mr. Chattterjee had been the State Education Minister from 2014 to 2021, when the alleged irregularities occurred.

Mr. Chatterjee was arrested from his residence in south Kolkata on Saturday morning, after almost 24 hours of questioning. He was later produced before a city court, which sent him to ED custody till Monday.

Mr. Chatterjee, who is the Trinamool Congress secretary-general, also holds the portfolio of Parliamentary Affairs.

Caught in the web: Partha Chatterjee being brought to a court after his arrest in Kolkata on Saturday. • DEBASISH BHADURI

₹20 cr. assets seized

On Friday, the agency seized cash and jewellery worth ₹20 crore from the residence of the Minister's associate, Arpita Mukherjee, after searches at several places in West Bengal. "The said amount is suspected to be proceeds of crime of the said SSC (School Service Commission) scam," a statement by the ED said. On Saturday, the value of the items seized was put at ₹21.2 crore. Ms. Mukherjee, and Suknata Acharjee, an officer of the West Bengal government and a close aide of Mr. Chatterjee, were arrested by the ED later in the day.

The residence of Minister of State for Education Paresh Chandra Adhikary in Cooch Behar district was also searched; so was the residence of Manik Bhattacharya, former president of the West Bengal Board of Primary Education Board, and that of a number of current and formal officials with alleged links to the scam.

Trinamool Congress spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said the party would take action against Mr. Chatterjee, if found guilty.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

Flagging fortunes of Khadi flag-maker

Revoke rule that allows polyester flags, says Sangha

GIRISH PATTANASHETTI
HUBBALLI

While the nation is busy making preparations for the platinum jubilee celebrations of Independence, the mood at the country's sole Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)-recognised National Flag manufacturing unit of Karnataka Khadi Gramodyog Samyukta Sangha, Bengeri, at Hubballi in Karnataka, is not upbeat. This is the unit which supplies the Tricolour to be hoisted atop the Red Fort.

Every year, by the end of July, the Samyukta Sangha would have despatched Tricolour worth ₹2.5 crore. But thanks to the Centre's amendment to the National Flag Code allowing flags made of polyester, the Sangha has not even received half the usual orders. So far, it has orders for flags worth just around ₹ 1.2 crore, but the Sangha has raw material stock to supply flags worth ₹5 crore. The Samyukta Sangha had set its target high this year in anticipation of a vibrant 'Amrit Mahotsav' celebration and procured more raw material.

The amendment to the Flag Code came as a shocker not only to the Samyukta Sangha but also to all those involved in the Khadi and Village Industries.

Dwindling demand: The flag-making unit in Hubballi in Karnataka is India's only BIS-certified facility. • KIRAN BAKALE

Quite ironically, there is no demand for khadi flags manufactured here even when the government has launched the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign, exhorting people to hoist the Tricolour at their houses from August 13-15. One reason for this is that the size specified under the campaign –

SPECIAL

20x30 inches and 16x27 inches – is not permitted under the BIS' standards for the National Flag. The unit in Hubballi, recognised by BIS in 2004, meticulously follows the Flag Code and manufactures only nine specified sizes of the flag.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8
ANOTHER REPORT ▸ PAGE 6

Roger, the ATC is short of hands

AAI asks DGCA to revise duty hours, reduce rest periods of air traffic controllers

JAGRITI CHANDRA
NEW DELHI

Faced with the rising need for air traffic controllers (ATCOs) due to the rapid increase in number of airports in the country and slow recruitment, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has asked the aviation safety regulator to revise rules on their duty hours to shorten their rest periods. In order to comply with the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) rules on "watch duty limitations and rest requirements", the AAI, as the provider of air traffic services, needs 40% more personnel for 2022 than its current strength of 3,163. In 2023, it will need 5,131 personnel, or 60% more than the present numbers, and in 2024, it will need 5,428, or 70% more officers, according to a government official.

The current strength of ATCOs is already 22% less than the sanctioned strength of 3,871.

"We have asked the DGCA to rationalise its rules. Instead of one set of rules for all airports in the country, it must look at the volume of air traffic at different airports to fix duty and rest periods. An airport that operates 24x7 hours such as Delhi will have different requirements than those that see flights only from dawn to dusk or have limited day-time operations," said the official.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

BSY does a U-turn on son's candidature

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

A day after announcing publicly that his son B.Y. Vijayendra will contest from Shikaripur, a seat long held by him, former Chief Minister B. S. Yediyurappa did a U turn on Saturday, saying he had only made a "suggestion" it and that the final decision would only be taken by the party high command.

The former Chief Minister reportedly came under pressure from the high command, which expressed dissatisfaction over the "unilateral announcement" that took the party by surprise, compelling him to soften his stand.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and Revenue Minister R. Ashok visited Mr. Yediyurappa at his residence on Saturday, reportedly trying to broker peace between the high command and the former Chief Minister.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 6

Monkeypox is 'public health emergency'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The World Health Organization has declared the global monkeypox outbreak a "public health emergency of international concern" (PHEIC), one step below that of a "pandemic".

The monkeypox outbreak has affected over 14,500 people in 72 countries. India has reported three cases so far.

According to the WHO, a PHEIC represents "an extraordinary event, which constitutes a public health risk to other states through international spread, and which potentially requires a coordinated international response".

DETAILS ▸ PAGE 11

After grain deal, Russia hits Ukraine port

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KYIV

Russian missiles struck Ukraine's key Black Sea port of Odesa on Saturday, officials said, in an attack Kyiv described as a "spit in the face" of a deal signed by the warring neighbours a day earlier to resume grain exports blocked by the conflict. Two cruise missiles hit terminal infrastructure, regional authorities said on social media.

DETAILS ▸ PAGE 11

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Bit of respite: People cool off at a fountain in Madrid Rio Park in Madrid. • REUTERS

Sustaining crops: A field of potatoes is irrigated during sunset in Moeuvres, France. • REUTERS

Red-hot Europe

40 degrees Celsius in Britain? It's a climate emergency

Over the past week, Western Europe reeled under one of the most brutal heatwaves the region has ever witnessed. On July 19, temperatures in the U.K., for the first time in recorded history, crossed 40 degrees Celsius.

Countries such as France, Spain and Portugal too recorded temperatures across a similar range.

Apart from the lives lost and human suffering, massive wildfires caused by the extreme heat and dry weather devastated vast hectares of land in these countries. Drying up of waterbodies such as the Po river basin of Italy, one of Europe's "food bowls", has raised the alarm over a possible drought.

The extreme rise in temperature in a region known for its cold climate is attributed to climate change and global warming. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called for immediate action on the climate crisis, bleakly summing up that it is either "collective action or collective suicide".

Choked mountain: Smoke from a wildfire in the Sierra Bermeja mountain range in Malaga, Spain. • AFP

Wild inferno: Firefighters strive to put out a wildfire in Pumarejo de Tera near Zamora, Spain, which reported multiple fires. Just one blaze ravaged nearly 20,000 hectares of land. • AFP

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KERALITE HINDU Girl, Divorced, Asst. Professor, Central University, Delhi, 33yrs/165cm, Chothi, Delhi Settled. Preferred Engineers/Doctors/Govt. Officers.Ct: 9447400724, 7994313295

SC AD CSI 37/165 M.Sc., MPH (USA) working in World Bank seeks suitable Alliance from well Qualified, Good Salary, Well Settled Groom, Religion, Caste No Bar. Contact: 98844 39700

ALLIANCE INVITED from respectable family for sunni muslim girl 5ft 5inch 42 unmarried good looking working contact email with details at umtc.shahul@gmail.com or 8054809927

DOCTOR

DOCTOR MD Chennai, Mudaliar, October 1992 born ,157cm, moolam 4 paatham, seeking MD Doctors/PG engineers/IIM/Business families, age 29–35. 9444075410

DOCTOR GIRL MD Anesthesiology 32/165 from affluent elite family of doctors.Working in top hospital Chennai. Fair beautiful good mannered and cultured. Father doctor Kerala Nair. Engineer & Doctor grooms with MD/MS /MCh DM from good family background from Kerala and TamilNadu preferable. Ct: 9840050381/ 9840985383

Intercaste Doctor Parents seeks alliance for their only daughter 38yrs Divorcee, Doctor, Working, Associated Professor, affluent, fair, good looking. Only doctor preferred. Caste No Bar. Cont:9443167551

DEVENDRA KULA Vellalar 27, MBBS PVT Hospital. Seeks Doctor Groom from good Family. Ct: 97891 91508 / 63838 60917

HINDU, TAMIL, Mudaliyar, Chennai, Doctor–PG, Pediatrics, Working in reputed Children's Hospital, Chennai, 29 years, seeks alliance from Dr., PG in Eng, MBA, CA. Contact–9444841350.

ENGINEER

CHRISTIAN BRIDE 33 years BE Graduate working in MNC NON IT seeks Christian groom of 33 – 36 years BE Graduate working in MNC from a well educated family cont 9445931257/9444325317

HINDI

SC (INTERCASTE) 41/163, unmarried, fair, MBA Management professional, working in Public sector organization @ Bangalore from a well of family from Delhi, seeks suitable alliance. Caste & language no bar. Ct: artfriends@gmail.com

IAS / ALLIED SERVICES

KERALITE HINDU Girl, Dy.Director (Doordarshan) Delhi, I I S, DOB 06.04.1988, 5ft 2inch, seeks groom preferably Civil Service officers / Doctors / Engineers / similar group A officers. Contact 8589881011

MALAYALAM

MUSLIM WOMAN, M Phil in Clinical Psychology, MSc in Applied Psychology, 26/150cm, Thrissur District. Working currently in a private clinic at Calicut as Clinical Psychologist. Proposal invited from parents of well educated and progressive minded boy. Nearby districts are preferred. 7907856272

VANIKA VAISYA Girl 28/172 MTech, Civil service aspirant, well settled family in Trivandrum, both parents are Govt Officials, brother is in USA. Civil Servants and Doctors are preferred 9447525378

NAIR GIRL @ Chennai 26/147 BE Chadayam/ Chewa Dosam Seeks Grooms Nair/Menon Family 9840944880/ 9447596424

EZHAVA GIRL, 30 years, 160 cm, 50 kg, MD ANAESTHESIA. Poorunatthi Nakshatram. Parents seek good alliance from professionals, well educated boys. Please contact 7356736936.

SUDHAJATHAKAM VISWAKARMA 25/150 Visakam B.Com MBA HCL Settled Coimbatore Seeks Graduate Groom 9566647766

EZHAVA GIRL (32yrs)–161cm –M.Tech working in MNC chennai seeks well settled grooms from chennai/Bngle–Contact number 9946836167

Malayali Hindu Girl (Age 33; 5'4"; Good Looking; MS (US) & MBA (UK)) well placed in Europe, looking for South Indian Boys (Age 33-38) with similar background based in UK/Europe/India. Family well Educated, Financially sound. Phone: 9849377184.

THE HINDU

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MALAYALAM

Groom Wanted

Nair Girl with non transferable job working as an Asst. Prof, Central Govt Research Institute, Bangalore

Good looking. D O B 15.06.1992, Nakshatra- Mula, Height 164cm, 54kg. She has done her M S, Ph. D and Post Doc abroad. Seeking alliance from similarly qualified and professionally settled boys.

Contact : 75940 00872 94360 08333

HINDU THIYYA 29/156 Doctor Girl MBBS, MD., Anesthesia - AIIMS seeks Doctor,Profesnl, IAS, IPS 9444114016

NRI

SEEKING– PROTESTANT Christian, well educated, kind and open–minded groom settled either in Canada or USA for my niece 29,165cms, studied and employed in Canada. She is from a reputed family in Kanyakumari district. Contact: kishoreonlinead@gmail.com and 7736866119

Padmasali, 33Years, 2nd, 5.1", Fair, BTech, Bank Officer - Contact: 9490000320.

TAMIL

BERICHETTIAR 27/163 slim fair BE Remarriage Ch seeks educated High Profile CNB Ct: Geetham 9884558014

CHRISTIAN (ECI) Age: 26 B.TECH. IT 168 CM. Seeks well Settled Family Caste No Bar. Ct: 8610111543

BC AD Divorce, CSI Christian Girl Age 35yrs 168cm B.Com, Seeks Groom in Chennai Pref. Contact: 9566115207

WELL ESTABLISHED Industrial Christian Nadar family invites marriage proposal for their daughter, well Educated (MBA), Fair, Beautiful, looking after family Establishments. Bridegroom should be well Educated from well to do family age within 35, Parents Contact. 95000 37037.

RC Nadar Girl ME 33/5.7 fair Software Engineer seeks BC/FC Groom. Contact / whatsApp 98868 86775

37/165cm, Slim, Charming, Banker in Malaysia seeks NRI Tamil Catholic groom.mail:sacrament295@gmail.com

DOCTOR FAMILY seeks Groom for his Daughter, Studying LLM Masters in USA, AD, Christian, 26 Years, SOEL, Advocate. WhatsApp: 9790774718.

CSI CHRISTIAN Adi–Dravidar 29/165 graduate looking for 30–33/170 working Christian groom in chennai Contact: 9361955235

Muslim Rowther born1995 MBA 160 working Govt. Bank seeks suitable groom. Ct : 86701 73663.

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar Girl Fair, Good Looking, 03–04–1995 born / 152cm / M.Sc M.Phil, working as Assistant Professor in a Reputed Women's College, Mount Road, Chennai. Both Parents Doctors (Private), Suitable Alliance, Employed / Settled in Chennai / With Clean Habits from Same Community. Contact: 9841182514

TAMIL MUSLIM, 23, Fair, B.Tech seeks suitable Educated Employed Groom from Decent family. Contact: 94434 09444, 94866 67999

TAMIL MUSLIM Rowther 22/ M.Sc / Fair, Well Settled Family in Chennai (Native: Kumbakonam) Seeks suitable groom. sherreemmuhammed88@gmail.com

NAIDU, RICH 23–02–90 fair slim 165 cm uthiradam 4 magaram MBBS Dr. TN Govt Chennai seeks Dr, Govt class A officer, Business Grcom. Any Naidu or any FC/BC (Tamil/Telugu) 9841743268.

HINDU SC (AD) 33/156, ME , Thiruvonam, Working in Public Sector Bank in Chennai, Clerk 35K, Seeks Suitable Groom, Age 34 –37.Working in Govt or IT. Ct.9677510647 , 9790191307

SIMMAM MAHAM Fair SC Hindu Tamil 23Yrs 153cm MBA HDFC 2.5L PA Chennai.Seeks Educated Groom.Ct: 9962359900

HINDU MARAVAR(DEVAR) Never Married 09–01–86,165cm,60kg Working in USA IT Expt Seeks Below 39Yr,1st Mariage Groom Work in USA IT/Equal Profesional,Same Caste,SubCast 7845259152

HINDU Pillai 29/153 Poonam fair B.com MBA Coimbatore working MNC Seeks well eductd groom. 9843090433

MUDALIAR 25, BE, MBA, 162, Good Looking, well Settled Family Seeks Alliance Ct. 8778514465 / 7200866346

HINDU VELLALAR Pillai / Mudaliar Barani Mesham 34/162 Govt. Doctor MD (Paed) seeks Suitable groom upto 38yrs Ct: 97912 16028

DOCTOR MD Chennai, Mudaliar, October 1992 born ,157cm, moolam 4 paatham, seeking MD Doctors/PG engineers/IIM/Business families, age 29–35. 9444075410

TAMIL

VANNAR PARENTS Near Tindivanam Only Daughter Slim Fair Tall 22/160 working in TCS seeks suitable Groom preferably IT Employed/ Doctor/ Business, age 24 to 26 from same Community Call: 9080363451

AD 27/162 BHMS Doctor Working seeks Tamil–cultured Well–Educated Settled Dr./Engr/Senior Officer in State/Central Govt./Bank, Groom with Age 30 & Below. 9444220872

AGE:23,HEIGHT:5'3",B.E., WORKING in an MNC in Chennai looking for a suitable Groom in SC Caste. Call:9444283352/044–22241557

HINDU SC –Adi Dravida, Female, Age– 29, BE MBA, Working in Accenture, Ph – 9444991091.

AFFLUENT MUDALIAR parents from Bangalore seek alliance for their only daughter 27yrs,175cm,Engineer (CS)from well settled grooms employed in civil services (IAS/IFS/IRS),Class I State or Central govt officers also can contact. Caste no bar.Please contact:9741589507

HINDU ADIDRAVIDAR SC, CNB 38/1984 MA,PVT Bank,Ashwini, Good looking, Chennai,1st Marriage only 9500017884

PILLAI/MUDALIAR, 33, Good looking, MBBS, MD Final yr, Well Settled family seeks Groom aged 33-36 yrs, Engineer/ Business/ Doctor. 9345855735

HINDU NADAR 27, MBBS, Bharani Mesham, Suddha Jathagam, Seeks Good looking Doctor. Ct:9965252880.

MUDALIAR: 25 /V.Fair & Beautiful, MBBS, MS, Doctor, Chennai, Having own Hospital, Elite Family, Seeks Groom – Doctor / Business – 8925019776

TAMIL VISWAKARMA / 39 / 150 Fair Thiruvonam / Rich / ME seeks suitable Same Caste Groom. 9486320982

HINDU NADAR 29, 168, BE/MS Australia Inc 30000/– Divorcee Seeks Suitable Groom KA Raman Nadar 9380791999

VANNIYER KULA Chathriyar MBA Age 31 Menam Uthiratdhi Working in Pvt Bank Chennai Rs.35k/PM ct. 7200000601

NAIDU BALIJA/GAVARA, Avittam 28/160, Chartered Accountant, MNC, Chennai, Seeks professionally qualified Groom from Good family. Contact: 9498024683 / 6939845735

Mudaliyar/Caste nobar30 Master Degree, Father is a Business man and well settled Family, Looking for Groom Business and well settled Family Contact: 9363044017.

ADIDRAVIDAR, SC 33/169, MCA, Pvt Job 20K Pm, Medium Color Seeks Suitable Groom Sal 50K Pm. Ct:9445507220

INTERCASTE PARENTS (SC/MBC) 31/167 BE MBA SWE Swathi Chennai seek good family background groom 9444053003

HINDU NADAR Sister Girls, age 28 / 23, Ht 167/167cms, M.E. Asst Prof / B.E (I.T), Upper middle class. Seeks Upper middle class, equally qualified boys of age below 30 in job or business.Marriage both at a stage. Contact : 96265 15511

HIGHLY QUALIFIED & well Employed Vanniyar Groom for PG Eng Lit., B.Ed Employed 26 Thiruvonam CV & horoscope to 74486 75517

DKV 28/167 Fair BE. TCS Chennai. Parents Hindu/CSI. Seeks Groom Dr/Er.Govt Employee. Ct: 8056143638

HINDU ADIDRAVIDAR Kongu Parayar 31 B.E, M.Tech, PhD. Seeks educated Profl groom. 8760683559/8973345370

ILLATHU PILLAI, 29/127, Ayilyam, Well Settled Doctor(PG) Servicing in TN Govt seeks suitable Groom. Caste No Bar. 94866 08844, 94961 02205

25, 165, B.Tech Employed In Tcs Veg Seeks Alliance From Tamil / Malayalam/ Iyer/ Namboodhiri / Varma Contact 9443270479

GAVARA, 24 Yrs. Sft 7inch BE. Bride Software Professional 8.5 Lac PA, affluent family seeking Naidu Groom Ct. 9443187673

PROPOSAL INVITED for well to do Karkathar Girl (28/165) fair beautiful B.Tech.(IIT), MBA/PGDM (IIM, K) working in major MNC Hyderabad earns 26L/p.a. Groom aged upto 31yrs from Pillai/Mudaliar, Engineers/Doctors and others welcome. Bride willing to relocate to grooms work station. parents please contact : 9080234197

MUDALIAR 27/162, Good Looking, MD, Own Clinic, 600000.PA, Well to do family, CNB. 7299576644, 7299576666

27, FAIR, B.Tech, M.S. in US, working in Chennai, Affluent, seeks settled groom CNB. 9489935653

✔ **MUDALIAR: 25**/160, V.Fair & Beautiful, B.E.M.S(USA), Software Eng, Amazon, USA,600000 PM, Elite Family, Seeks Groom – Abroad /Doctor / Business – 7305810258

BRAHMIN IYENGAR Srivathsam, Bharani 26 yrs BE MNC IT Chennai seeks unmarried Iyengar boy from Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad (5yrs age difference).Contact: 9840013155

HINDU NADAR 23/168, BE, Fair Kumbam Pooratathi Chennai. Seeks well educated rich family. 9840966663

Vadama Bharathvaja vishakm 27/157 +2 Pass, Fair, well settled family seeks Graduate Groom. Ct: 9380834001

TAMIL

WANTED GROOM

RE-MARRIAGE HINDU NADAR WELL REPUTED FAMILY

34 Yrs POOSAM-CANCER MD - DM WELL SETTLED BRIDE, SEEKS A WELL EDUCATED GROOM FROM WELL ESTABLISHED PROFESSIONAL/ BUSINESS FAMILY BOY.

CONTACT 9003267862

WANTED GROOM

30 - 35yrs- Entrepreneurs Doctors professionals for Hindu fair good looking IRS bride (mutually divorced) 31/165cms from affluent family presently working as Deputy commissioner Customs/ Chennai

Ct: 94440 88855 sasisai16@gmail.com

BRIDES WANTED

BENGALI

BENGALI BOY, 28, 5" – 6", B.E., MBA., Working in Chennai MNC Seeks suitable match B.E., MBA Girl. Ct : 7200339961

KANYAKUBJ /SARYUPARIN Brahmin working girl. My son is Mar 1989 born, fair, 5ft 8inch tall, works in US MNC Wells Fargo at Bangalore, earns 27 LPA We are from Lucknow and owns apartment in Bangalore. Contact 8853218210.

COSMOPOLITAN

AFFLUENT CULTURED catholic family of high repute seeks alliance for their accomplished son 35 years post graduate IIM in good post unmarried ht 173 cm well settled an educated bride below 31 years from well established family willing to settle in Bengaluru. 9739048634, email: josephajayk@gmail.com

UPPER MIDDLECLASS Widower 68,Settld Chennai No Children Seek Life Partner Caste Religion NoBar 9840106847

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DOCTOR(MD) US CITIZEN

30/5'9" Merit Scholar Top US Univ Only Son

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Bio+Pics USMD92@gmail.com WA +1-510-579-9350

ENGINEER

HINDU NADAR Industrialist, Mumbai Based, B.Tech, 28,180cmseeks Engineer Bride from Good Family 9326750083

HINDI

1985/175CM. IT, 30 Lakhs PA. Chennai. Father Doctor. Seeks well educated bride. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

KANNADA

Kannada Devanga Chettiar Boy, Fair, 34/5'3", MBA (IIM Bangalore), Working in MNC in Bangalore, 50 LPA. Caste: No Bar. Contact: 9677562027.

MARATHI

MARATHI CHRISTIAN BRIDE WANTED

Alliance invited from a Marathi Christian Family for 28 yrs old Doctor (MS General Surgery) who is running a Super-Speciality Hospital in Tamilnadu.

Contact: 98423 42525

BRAHAMIN Madhva, Doctor MD.,DM 32/165cm, mutual divorcee, fair seeks doctor, engr/any graduate.9444118686

NRI

BROTHERS, BOYS engineers ,affluent, MTech,MS, Sweden, 182, Uthiradam. Mprof, UK,176, Avittam, Hindu Mudaliyar, Pillai also caste no bar.ct. 9884545515

TAMIL

RC TAMIL Bachelor 56 Yrs Working in Central PSU invites proposal from God fearing Soft spoken & Kind natured middle class RC Tamil Catholic Spinster Btwn 48 TO 52 Years. 9080658661 / 9789957685

TIRUNELVELI BASED Parents seek alliance for their Son Tamil, Muslim, 30/178cms, ME, Expecting supportive and preferably Employed/ professional/progressive Bride. Ct: 9443969998

CHRISTIAN NADAR, 34yrs/178cms, MBBS with dip in Cardiology Private Doctor good looking lives in Nagercoil, Divorcee seeks same caste qualified Bride/ Divorcee above 28yrs. Ct: 90039 83230.

VANNIYAR, 35/168CM, BE, 1.25L Visagam 4th, seeks Suitable Alliance same Caste Ct: 94434 01831

DKV 31 BE SWE 170cm Divorcee No Issue, No Encumbrance Hindu/ Christian Suitable Bride. Ct: 9444807156

PARTNER FOR myself, 35, 5ft 11inch, B.E. (College Of Engineering Guindy), IT professional in Chennai. Interfaith parenting (Father is Hindu and Mother is Christian). I have no religious beliefs. Caste no bar. I write freelance on movies as a hobby. My Contact 9003213197, Contact of Parents 9600174846

VELLALAR EGGETARIAN 29/175 Avittam, Maharam PhD canada working as PDF Lund University Sweden seeks Bride abroad/ to settled abroad 9444425506

HINDU SC AD 33/172 Ph.D Chemistry , CSIR RA seeks suitable Bride (28-31) empld. Ct:9994153134, 9840490934

BALIJA NAIDU 46/170 BCom CA MBA Remarriage Ch seeks Educated Bride CNB Chennai only Ct:geetham 9884558014

Saiva Pillai 33 Moolam 170 MCA MNC Bore Good Family background Sub caste No bar 9443154173 Email : majorelangovan@gmail.com

CASTE NO Bar, 36, Magaram Rasi, Avittam,MBA Working U.K Divorcee No issue– Intercaste Parents– Hindu Seeks well educated/ Medical Professional Bride from Tamilnadu. 6380626640

HINDU NADAR (29) 175cm BE/MBA Income 2,00,000/–Seeks Suitable Bride. KA Raman Nadar 9380791999

SOZHIA VELLALAR,32/180/BE,CTS chennai,14LPA,well settled,unmarried seeks suitable educated bride from the same caste.ct–9442570340,9487635399

HINDU AGAMUDAIYAR 5.6 ht/34yrs B.E, (Divorced) MD in Reputed Family Business with a good net worth. Seeks suitable alliance. Caste no bar. Call/Whatsap: 9444385393, 9444929511

SAIVAPILLAI 33/173 Hastham MS Engg Software Engineer in Major MNC Bangalore seeks professionally qualified Bride 8903293576 / 9840299385

TAMIL VISWAKARMA 39/170 Fair Thiruvonam Rich/ CA/ MNC/ 70,000 seeks same Caste Bride 9486320982

SAIVA PILLAI 26/166, Chithirai, B Tech SW Engineer, Chennai, only son, Seeks educated bride. 9345548703

ARCOT MUDALIAR, Fair, 40, B.Com, MBA, 5.9", S.Manager, HDFC Bank, 10 Lakh P.A, Own House, Avittam, Kumbam, Contact 9710328006

HINDU NADAR, Baskar.C (36) 175cm MBA, 1.5L P/Month including Business and Rent. Suitable Bride from Chennai. Ct: 9382603744

IYER BRAHACHARNAM Bharadwaja Aswini 30/165 MNC Working in Canada Seeks Suitable Bride Ct: 96770 95502

Saiva Pillai 26/180 M.Tech, Biotechnology MNC Bangalore / Only son of well educated employed parents seek suitable educated employed Bride. Contact: 9442649298.

✔ **CASTE NO** BAR 38/168 ICP PILLAI (F) CHETTIAR(M) M.TECH SWE MNC Chennai 18 lakhs Aswini star seeks suitable bride 9841151575 /write2ats@gmail.com

CHENNAI BUSINESSMAN 41yrs/MBA Divorced Seeks Bride Below 35Yrs, with Good Family Back Ground. 7200079466

SEIVA PILLAI Qualification B.E, MBA Working At Bangalore Leading MNC Company Monthly Income 1. 5Lakhs, Divorce age 37 Seeks Only 1st Marriage Bride. Call : 8072215374/ 8946062412

NAIDU : 46 Yrs, Coimbatore & Bengaluru Own Business, Good Income, looking for suitable bride. Caste no bar. CT: 88709-40114.

38,UNMARRIED,OWN BUSINESS, MCA, No Expectations, Looking for decent family,Coimbatore, 9489603438

AGAMUDAYA MUDALIYAR handsome Rishabam Krittika 32/180 MA, BL practising Advocate, High Court own house seeks educated good looking bride. 9940045937/ kanmani.portvc@gmail.com

Padmasaliyar, 34 / 167cm Marine Engineer Seeks suitable bride. Preferably BC community, Caste No Bar. Ph : 74020 90971

DKV 33/176, BE, L &T–Chennai. Parents Hindu/RC, Well settled. Seeks Suitable Bride.Caste No Bar. 9884467912

MALE, MCA Age 46 2nd Marriage, Chennai. Looking for Bride,Cast No Bar,Without child. Contact No: 8148536156 / 9094758876

HINDU NADAR 32 MDS Dental lecturer own clinic Chennai seeks MD Medicine alliance same caste Whatsapp 9884039215

✔ **PILLAI(KARUNEEGAR),** 30, BE, Veg, Job: MNC (Software) in Chennai, Annual Income: 12 lakhs. Seeking a suitable bride from the same community or any other community. Phone: 9841784047 Email: pingme.arul@gmail.com.

HINDU VALLUVAN, 26/178, BA,BL (Hons) Working as Judicial Magistrate (Civil Judge), 10L/PA, Own House Seeks Prof.Qualified & Govt. Employed Bride. Caste No Bar. 9444242995

HINDU VALLUVAN 31/176, B.E (Mech), M.A (Anth), TNPSC Group 1, R&D Coordinator in Vetri IAS Study Circle, Chennai, 60K/pm, Own House Seeks Prof.Qualified & Govt. Employed Bride.Caste No Bar. 9444242995

PSU BANK Manager (Reddiar), Handsome, 34/5.10, income 1.5 Lacs PM, Seeks Fair and equally placed girl. Caste no bar. Ct: 98404 50655.

Mudaliar 29/170 BE MBA Fair, Well settled, Affluent Family Chennai. Star Revathi Seeks Beautiful,Educated Girl, Same Community similar background Contact: 9444469390.

SC / Hindu/ 29/189 Cm, Software professional in Australia. Awaits PR. Seeks alliance, willing to relocate to Australia. Caste no bar. Parents in Chennai. Contact: 9884229468

TAMIL

PILLAI (SUB Caste Ok) 32, Bharani star, DCE, Work in Qatar. Salary 18L. P.A.Ct: 9442456941 / 7305460763.

AGAMUDAIYA MUDALIYAR, divorce, 40, Mirugasiridam, 170cm, Slim, Ph.D, Govt Job, 1.10 lakh p/m, 9894042460

VANNIYAKULA KSHATRIYA PG Doctor Chennai 29/159Rohini–2 Rishabam seeks same caste Doctor BrideSend Profile–Horoscope: vpsarathy1@gmail.com9869041169

TAMIL BRAHMIN, 36, B.Com, MBA, EPGDM, Working as Deputy Manager in a Pvt. Firm, Chennai. Seeks Suitable Bride in Same Community. Ph: 98846 88390 / 98404 03339

SMARTHA BRAHMIN Telugu Bachelor 44/175 Koundinya Chithirai B.Tech M.E Sr DGM Seeks Brahmin Bride Ct. labalaji94@yahoo.com 9445006191

VADAKALAI IYENGAR Boy, Punarpoosam 5 ft 6 inch, Bharatwaja Gothram, 1979, never married, MNC Chennai, MS. I.T. 24 Lacs pa seeks never married Brides. Cont with BHP Whatsapp: 7299704899, 9443092289.

BRAHMIN,40, ASSOCIATE Project Manager HCL Technologies Madurai, Seeks any Brahmin Girl. Ph: 9487851429

BRIDE WANTED

Tamil Iyer family based in Dubai seeks alliance for their Son - 28, 5'11, with a H1B visa, working in Austin,Texas. Looking for a beautiful & well qualified bride from a Iyer / Iyengar / Smartha / Madhwa working / Studying in the US / Willing to study and eventually work in the US preferred.

Email: axisramesh@gmail.com

00971561144046

NAIDU 31/164cm ME Asst. Professor Chennai-Divorcee seeks suitable Bride Unmarried/ Divorcee - no issue- Naidu/ Mudaliar/ Pillai/ Reddiyar/ Chettiar pref Contact: 94456 89306 / 94430 52596

Seeks Unmarried 38-42yrs Bride for 47yrs US Citizen, never married before, spiritual, liberal family 7395881522, padmapalanisamy@gmail.com.

MARUTHUVAR B.E, 27yrs/175, Fair & Handsome 6 Lakhs PA seeks suitable Working Bride. Ct: 9445222482

TELUGU

KAMMA 46 177Cm, BE Divorce, Private Employee, Expected Divorce, widow Issue Less,Contact: 9790271078

NAIDU 27/180, B.Tech MS, Poonamalli, working as Research Engineer in Sweden, contact 9566682220

URDU

SMU 28/179 ME handsome PG Engineer MNC, Europe seeks PG Medical/ Engineer bride from Reputed Religious good family Mail: sshafi61@gmail.com

BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED

TAMIL

AGAMUDI MUDALIAR, Elite Family Boy–Sep 89/170, Mirugasirisham, PG, Working MNC Only Son Seeks PG & Doctor Bride. Girl – Sep 91/165, Mirugasirisham, PG, Working HR MNC Seeks MS / M.Tech Groom. 9176780777

TELUGU

BRAHMIN– 28Y /158cm, fair, IIT, IIFT–MBA,Bharadwaj ghotram.Seeks well qualified & well settled Brahmin. Ph:9849113415

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98410 24677, 98405 36366

TELUGU

BRIDEGROOM WANTED

Naidu, Slim, Fair Girl 36/ MSC 172H / Pooratathi Star Seeking well Educated & Settled suitable Grooms Employed / Business/India /Abroad, OK. Subcast No Bar.

Contact: 9842470621 / 9489201033

BALIJA NAIDU, 50yrs, Widower, Two daughters married seeks suitable Life Partner Caste No Bar. Ct: 7395925454

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BRAHMIN, 29, 185 cms, Entrepreneur, Masters. Lives in Chennai. Parents are Entrepreneurs. The family is well settled with a good net worth. Looking for a like-minded and well-educated match from any Community. Contact: 6366448345

MUDALIYAR/CASTE NO BAR, 40, 168 cms, Entrepreneur, B.Sc. Lives in the UK. Father is Retired. Looking for a match from a well-settled family. Contact: 6366448344

MUDALIYAR, 28, 183 cms, Doctor, Pursuing PG, MBBS from Salem. Lives in Thiruvanamalai. Father is an Entrepreneur, The family is well settled with a good net worth. Looking for a like-minded and well-educated Doctor match. Contact: 6366448345

SAIVA PILLAI, 32, 169 cms, Data Scientist, M.Sc from IIT Roorkee. Lives in Chennai. Parents are Legal Professionals. Looking for a Vegetarian family and well-educated match from any community. Contact: 6366448343

GRAMANI/CASTE NO BAR, 31, 173 cms, Entrepreneur, Masters in Project Management. Lives in Chennai. Father is an Entrepreneur with a good net worth. Looking for a match from a well-settled family. Contact: 6366448344

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

BRAHMIN, 24, 171 cms, Business Development Executive, B.Tech. Lives in Qatar. Father is a Professional. Looking for a match from a well-placed and well-settled family from India/Abroad. Contact: 6366448344

SAIVA PILLAI, 29, 160 cms, Management Professional, MBA. Lives in Chennai. Father is an Entrepreneur. Looking for a like-minded and well-educated match from any community in and around Metros/Australia. Contact: 6366448343

MUDALIYAR, 30, 165 cms, Professional, Masters. Lives in Coimbatore, Father is an Entrepreneur. Family is well settled. Looking for a like-minded and well-educated match. Contact: 6366448345

LINGAYATH, 26, 173 cms, Pursuing Masters from a Reputed Institute. Lives in Bangalore. Father is a well Reputed Businessman. Looking for a well educated and well settled match form the same community. Contact: 6366448346

CHRISTIAN CSI NADAR, 24, 160 cms, Doctor, Pursuing PG Medicine. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Professional. Family is well settled. Looking for a like-minded and well-educated match from any affluent Nadar community. Contact: 6366448345

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TAMIL

Groom Wanted

Pillai NV Hindu 45 MCA 45+ 5'5" (29-10-1976) Officer (Public Sector Bank) Star - Uthiradam Physically Handicapped (left leg polio attack) caste no bar seeks educated well employed bridegroom

Contact :- 94868 28754 73393 75133

Mudaliar, 37, B.Com /MBA, Employed Smart seeks Employed / Business groom below 40 years. Ct:9940489633

AGAMUDAYAR, 28 / Fair B.Tech,M.S Apple, works in Seattle - USA seeks USA Employed Groom.Ct:9444123278

TELUGU

YADAV MBBS GOVT MD AIIMS 29/168 beautiful Chennai seek Same caste qualified groom India/Abroad 9444608708

NAIDU BORN August 1990 165cm Ph.D Research scholar smart medium complexion seeks well educated & well settled groom in India from decent background born not earlier than 1987 (Below 35yrs) call:9790906109

NAIDU (CNB) : 26/168, B.E., MBA, Fair & Beautiful, Business Family, Very Rich, Chennai – Seeks Groom Business / Engineer – 8939012419

BALIJA NAIDU magam 46 age MCA, divorcee without issue Manager Amazon USA, green card holder. Seeks groom working in USA, decent family, Subsect no bar Ct: 9884032342, 9047225719. ksivirsja@yahoo.com

NAIDU BE., Fair 31/164cm Mdhunam, Punarpusam 12Lac PA Sub-Caste any seeks suitable Groom.Ct: 8892924377

DIVORCEE

BRIDES WANTED

Iyer, Bharadwajam, Makam, middle class, divorcee, No child, 35/178, B.E., MBA. Clean habits, Canadian PR/Citizen, Manager in HCL, Canada. CAD 1,46,000 Groom in Chennai from 22nd Aug to 20th Sep 2022. Sect / Sub-Sect no bar

Ct: 94441-79125

ENGINEER

✔ **Wanted Unmarried Naidu Bride for Naidu Doctor Groom aged 34 Years Divorcee Chennai Contact: Number : 9884724161.**

MALAYALAM

SUDDHA Jadagam handsome Nair 30/167 Coimbatore settled. Pvt Job in Chennai. Seeks Employed Malayalam/ Tamil Bride. CT: 9488717653.

COIMBATORE NAIR family groom 36/183 chadhayam no dhosam clean habits BOSCH seeks suitable malayalam bride CNB. +2 to any degree homely bride also accepted. CT: 96779 16391 & WUP: 99524 85995.

NRI

SEEKING ALLIANCE for Hindu Vellalar boy in Canada/India, 32/ 6'3", Affluent, Supply chain manager. Caste no bar. Canadian PR. Wh: 9597049074

TAMIL

ROMAN CATHOLIC Mudaliar 30 173cm BE, MNC 8Lak PA Chennai, Handsome, Seeks Qualified Girl. Ct: 6379397599

CHRISTIAN NADAR, Age 27 / 177cm / ME, MBA, MS (UK), Suitable Bride. Ph: 8667262565

MBBS GOVT Doctor SC 38Yr Divorcee Seeks suitable Christian bride Doctor/ Any UG/PG 9940558184/ 7806979417

BITS PILANI 6'1 Engineer Mudaliar Boy born in Nov 91, Wkg in Corporate at Bangalore Salary 35-40 lacs seeks Engineer/Doctor 5'4" Ct: 7382620365.

INTERCASTE NAIR boy Age 36, Legal-Manager, Private Company Chennai, Caste No Bar 9840699500 / 8778856080

MUDALIAR 30/170, Fair, Handsome, MBBS, MS,Surgeon,12 Lac.PA, Affluent Family, CNB. 7299576644, 7299576666

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Fighting fire: An Air Tractor AT-802F 'Fire Boss' airplane takes part in firefighting operations at Gesteira de Baixo in Pombal. Wildfires have swept across central Portugal amid temperatures exceeding 40 degrees Celsius. • GETTY IMAGES

Race against time: Firefighters fighting wildfire near Landiras, southwestern France. • AP

Containing inferno: Tactical firefighters in yellow suits, and supporting firefighters, set fires to burn a plot of land as they attempt to prevent the wildfire from spreading due to wind change, near Louchats in Gironde, southwestern France. • AFP

Devastated locale: A car and a burnt house at Ansiao in Pombal. • GETTY IMAGES

Hot Britain: Bathers cool down in the Thames in Oxford. • REUTERS

Warning signs: A road sign reads 'Extreme Heat, Plan your journey, Carry water', warning motorists on the M11 motorway north of London. • AFP

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'No increase in frequency of metro trains for now'

Ridership touched 5.17 lakh on July 16, an all-time high since the pandemic hit

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The crowd at Nagasandra metro station in Bengaluru.

At a time when the metro ridership has hit its peak post the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a demand by riders to introduce more services during peak hours. However, the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) officials maintain that the existing frequency of services are sufficient and there are no plans to increase the frequency of trains. On July 16, the Namma Metro services recorded the highest ridership of 5.17 lakh since the outbreak of the pandemic.

In June, for the first time after the pandemic, the metro ridership crossed the 5 lakh mark. The average ridership per day was around 4.61 lakh. The revenue generated was ₹34 crore in June. In January, the ridership recorded was an average of 2.3 lakh per day and the BMRCL earned revenue of ₹58 lakh per day. In the last six months, the ridership has doubled.

Anjum Parwez, MD, BMRCL said, "Though the ridership is gradually increasing, there is no need for increasing the frequency of trains for the time being. The six-coach trains are operated with good frequency and can accommodate more passengers. However, during peak hours, we will run additional schedules to clear the rush if required."

Extended line sought

The official said there is a demand to run an extended train line from Mysuru Road to Kengeri, but maintained that existing schedules are sufficient to meet the demand.

"Existing schedules can carry ridership of upto 5.7 lakh per day. Once that is reached we will run the required number of trains."

Return to work from offices is one of the factors for increased ridership. Pradeep Kumar, a metro passenger said, "Those who are travelling beyond Mysuru Road are spending more time travelling. If BMRCL operates all the train to Kengeri it will benefit people instead of running every alternative train."

The metro passengers have also demanded that the BMRCL open all the gates of metro stations. At many stations such as Majestic, Cubbon Park and others, some gates are closed for pedestrians.

The officials have maintained this has been done to reduce expenses on security staff.

"At Cubbon Park station, a gate located near Chinnaswamy stadium is opened during a cricket match. The rest of the time, access is denied. As the ridership is increasing, there is a need to open all the gates for the benefit of the passengers," said a passenger.

Two men steal cash from car parked behind Police Commissioner's office

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Vidhana Soudha police have stepped up the investigation to track down two bikers who stole ₹4.5 lakh cash from a parked car at the Legal Metrology office behind the city Police Commissioner's office in broad daylight on Saturday .

The victim, Lakshmeesh V., 36, a resident of Medahalli, had gone to the Mahadevapura Canara Bank branch to pay the home loan EMI. Since the staff asked him for the copy of the PAN card, he came out with the cash and put it in the dashboard of his car. He later went with his friend Rajesh to the Legal Metrology office for some work.

It was around 1.45 p.m. when the duo came out within five minutes and saw a man breaking the windshield of the car and making away with the packet containing the cash from the dash board. Lakshmeesh and Rajesh shouted for help and gave chase, but the man got onto the bike of the associate who was waiting and escaped.

Lakshmeesh later filed a complaint with the police who found that the few CCTV cameras installed in and around the government office buildings were defunct. However, some CCTV cameras at a private building caught some images of the accused based on which the police are trying to identify them. The police suspect that the accused had followed Lakshmeesh from the bank and stole the cash when the car was parked at the Legal Metrology office situated few yards away from the city police commissioner office.

Road-cum-metro rail flyover to ease traffic

BBMP, BMRCL reach 'consensus' on building a flyover at Sarakki Junction

SUCHITH KIDIYOOR
JAYANTH R.
BENGALURU

A view of Jaraganahalli Circle on Kanakapura Road and Sarakki Gate in Bengaluru. • BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) have reached a 'consensus' on building a flyover at Sarakki Junction to ease traffic movement. Earlier, the BBMP had proposed to build a flyover below the existing elevated metro corridor for the smooth flow of the traffic on the ORR and reduced waiting time for traffic below the junction for other motorists. However, the proposed flyover came in the way of BMRCL's Phase III metro extension alignment from Hebbal to J.P. Nagar on the ORR. The BMRCL had asked the BBMP to take up the project only after reaching a consensus.

Now it has been 'resolved' that instead of the BBMP, the BMRCL will implement the project by building a road-cum-metro flyover. The BMRCL is constructing it under the phase II project of Namma Metro from Ragigudda to Central Silk Board. The line is part of R.V. Road to Bommasandra Yellow Line and likely to be operational by next year.

Confirming the development, Anjum Parwez, MD, BMRCL, told *The Hindu* that BMRCL will execute the project. "As per the decision, we will take up the project of building road-cum-rail flyover for a distance of 1.2 km, this will help in easing traffic congestion as well as accommodate phase III of Namma Metro. The BBMP will share the project cost," he said.

Chief Engineer (Road and Infrastructure) of BBMP B.S. Prahalad said, "The proposed design will accommodate both rail and metro projects. At grade level, existing road infrastructure will remain.

> **What I have observed is that after the pandemic, the usage of private vehicles increased drastically. At the junction, traffic comes from four directions. Earlier, we had sent out a letter to BBMP to facilitate free left for vehicles coming from Konanakunte side to Illyasnagar side. They are yet to act on our suggestion.**
>
> A traffic police official

> **Pedestrian safety needs to be focused upon and a clear 15 seconds should be given for pedestrians to cross the road. The junction needs to be redesigned in consultation with traffic experts.**
>
> PRABHU
> a resident of Konanakunte

Above that, at level one, the proposed road flyover will come up. Using the same pier, a new line of metro will be constructed above the existing metro corridor. The BBMP will not implement the project. Instead, the BMRCL will implement it. The BMRCL has such infrastructure under construction from Ragigudda to Central Silk Board. In the future, Sarakki Junction will see the second rail-cum-road flyover in the city."

The proposed metro-cum-road flyover will have a height of over 55 feet. Earlier, the BBMP had proposed to construct the flyover below the existing metro-elevated corridor for a distance of 1.2 km with four lanes, estimated to cost ₹130 crore.

Rise in traffic congestion

The extension of Namma Metro line from Yelachenahalli to Silk Institute induced investment for high-rise residential complexes and other commercial establishments on either side of Kanakpura Road and linking roads. As the population size increased, there has been an exponential rise in usage of private vehicles, leading to more pressure on existing road infrastructure. Sarakki Junction is one such traffic gridlock that has remained a nightmare for motorists using the ORR as well those who travel towards core areas of the city.

Recently, heads of various agencies visited the area and deliberated on short and long-term proposals required to ease congestion. The short-term measures are keeping the road condition in good shape, maintaining footpaths and others. Mr. Prahalad said that asphalting work will be taken up at the earliest.

A traffic police official said, "What I have observed is that after the pandemic, the usage of private vehicles has increased drastically. At the junction, traffic comes from four directions. Earlier, we had sent a letter to the BBMP to facilitate a free left for vehicles coming from Konanakunte to Illyasnagar. They are yet to act. Construction of footpaths and the erection of a grill is required. The construction of the flyover would help, but we have no idea when it will be done." The official said that to man traffic near the junction, an additional 20 home guards are deployed in shifts.

Abdul Aleem, president, Changemakers of Kanakapura Road Association, said, "Kanakapura Road is among the major NH in the city. Sarakki Junction connects the major areas of the city. But owing to non-cooperation among elected representatives, BBMP and BMRCL, it has remained problematic. We urge the BMRCL and BBMP to work together on the flyover as well as the metro alignment. Adaptive traffic signals need to be installed here at the earliest. Pipeline road parallel to Kanakapura Road needs to be focused on and developed." Pedestrian safety remains a major problem too. There is no skywalk at the junction and particularly schoolchildren, senior citizens and those with physical disabilities, remain vulnerable.

Prabhu, a resident of Konanakunte, said, "Traffic jams are the major problem at this junction. Signals across Kanakapura Road can be synchronised. More priority can be given to vehicles moving straight so that they can run parallel with limited time for right-moving vehicles. Free left turns can be made at all four sides to allow the movement of left-moving vehicles. Pedestrian safety needs to be focused upon and a clear 15 seconds should be given for pedestrians to cross the road. The junction needs to be redesigned in consultation with traffic experts."

(Series concludes)

Measures proposed

- The height of the signal light installed at the BMRCL pillar to be raised to three feet.
- Grills and pedestrian poles to be installed on the sidewalk between 14th 'E' Avenue and Kanakapura Main Road to facilitate smooth traffic and movement of pedestrians.
- While proceeding from Sarakki signal to Kanakapura Main Road towards Jarganahalli, the footpath on the left side of is damaged. It has to be repaired and grills installed.
- To provide a signal-free left turn for vehicles coming from Konanakunte towards ORR near Sarakki junction, the branches of the trees across the road should be cut and the cement pillar installed by Bescom should be moved along the footpath.
- Service road to be raised to Ring Road level and asphalted.

Mission Decongestion
Sarakki Junction

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BENGALURU

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RISE 06:03	SET 18:49
RISE 02:14	SET 15:26
MONDAY, JUL. 25	
RISE 06:04	SET 18:49
RISE 03:00	SET 16:17
TUESDAY, JUL. 26	
RISE 06:04	SET 18:48
RISE 03:49	SET 17:08

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	24
Mysuru	34	20
Bengaluru	26	21

Bengaluru Today
28°C A comfortable but humid weather to prevail. Night will be pleasant. Few spells of moderate rain and thundershower will occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C The weather will be slight warm and humid. Night will be pleasant. Spell of rain and thundershower is likely.

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THE HINDU
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Seven-day average TPR in Bengaluru nearly doubles State's

Except for Bengaluru Urban, all other districts have a TPR that is lower than the State average

AFSHAN YASMEEN
BENGALURU

Although the COVID-19 situation in Karnataka is not alarming as of now, Bengaluru Urban continues to remain a hotspot. At 6.17%, the seven-day average test positivity rate (TPR) in Bengaluru Urban as on July 21 is nearly double the State average of 3.93%.

From a seven-day average TPR of 2.92% in the week ending July 14, Bengaluru Urban's positivity rate has seen over a two-fold rise in the week ending July 21. This district that is continuing to report over 95% of the State's daily caseload has been recording over 1,200 cases for the last few days.

A health worker collecting a swab sample of a commuter for COVID-19 test, at Kempe Gowda Bus Stand, in Bengaluru. •FILE PHOTO

Two-fold increase

Overall, with an over two-fold increase in the number of week-on-week new cases (from 3,030 in the week ending July 14 to 7,607 in the week ending July 21), the State's average seven-day TPR of 2% has also nearly doubled in one week (from 2% in the week ending July 14 to 3.93% in the week ending July 21).

Except for Bengaluru Urban, all other districts have a TPR that is lesser than the State average. While Dharwad and Ballari have a seven-day average TPR of above 3%, it is less than 3% in the remaining districts (other than Bengaluru).

Concerned over the low testing rate in the districts, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan had on July 15 written to the State Health Secretary T.K. Anil Kumar to ensure adequate testing is done in all districts while maintaining the recommended share of RT-PCR and Rapid Antigen tests. "The State must also closely monitor districts reporting higher cases, positivity rates and clusters to gauge the true level of infection and control any emerging spread of infection. This will enable us take pre-emptive action if required, in any areas of concern," the letter stated.

Following this, the State's COVID-19 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) reiterated that the State should conduct 30,000 tests daily. "We have reiterated that 20,000 tests should be done in BBMP and Bengaluru Urban areas while the remaining in the rest of Karnataka. Although the situation is not alarming, we have to continue following all COVID precautions as the World Health Organisation (WHO) and Government of India have not yet declared that the pandemic is over," said M.K. Sudarshan, TAC chairman.

Pointing out that the prevailing situation in Bengaluru is highly conducive for transmission, Dr. Sudarshan said there is no serious concern unless a new variant emerges and affects the vulnerable population. "The time has come wherein the disease severity is measured in terms of hospitalisations. All new cases are mere infections," he said. He said although deaths are also gradually increasing, most of the fatalities are from the high risk group. "Whether they died due to COVID-19 or with COVID-19 has to be studied through a comprehensive death audit," he said.

1,456 new COVID-19 cases, no deaths

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Karnataka on Saturday recorded 1,456 new infections taking the total number of cases to 39,94,627. With this the day's Test Positivity Rate (TPR) stood at 4.66% and the weekly TPR touched 4.72%. Of the new cases, 1,154 have been reported from Bengaluru Urban alone.

With zero deaths, the State's toll remained 40,090. Besides, 42 deaths of patients due to non-COVID-19 reasons have also been recorded.

As many as 1,096 persons were discharged on Saturday taking the total recoveries to 39,45,647. Active cases stood at 8,848 on Saturday. As many as 31,183 tests were conducted in the last 24 hours, including 23,401 RT-PCR tests. With this, the total number of tests rose to 6,75,78,114.

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Bescom starts replacing mechanical meters with digital ones

New meters come with a backlit LCD screen with many billing parameters

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Years after it was announced, the Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) has finally begun the replacement of age-old electromechanical meters with digital electrostatic meters in the Bengaluru Metropolitan Area Zones (BMAZ) from the first week of July. While there were 17,90,882 non-DLMS (Device Language Message Specification), old meters in the four circles which come under BMAZ - North, South, East and West circles – under the project, 13,331 digital meters have been installed until July 21.

There were 17,13,947 single-phase meters and 76,935 three-phase meters in the four circles, according to the latest data from Bescom. All of them are now being replaced with no charges being imposed on consumers. The new meters – which come with a backlit LCD screen displaying several billing parameters like maximum consumption, voltage, cumulative active energy import and export readings amongst others – will help both consumers and the Bescom.

"The old mechanical meters only give us readings and no other details. Even consumption was not being recorded accurately. Now with these, we can assess what the maximum demand of a house is, if they are consuming more units than they were sanctioned, old consumption rates and many other things. With voltage rating, even consumers can also identify if power is running on a single phase or completely off. The new meters will record the data without errors," a senior Bescom official explained.

The digital meters are being installed by two private companies on a turnkey basis. The companies will be in charge of the supply, releasing, fixing and wiring of DLMS-compliant electrostatic meters, according to officials. Currently, the meters are being installed in Rajajinagar, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Whitefield and Indiranagar areas. While 11,824 digital meters have been installed in the West Circle, 1,507 have been installed in the East circle. The work is yet to begin in North and South circles. "The work is going on very well. We are installing around 700 - 900 meters daily. The project will eventually be extended to other areas as well," the senior official added.

The replacement project is expected to be completed in two years. "April 2024 has been provided as the deadline for the companies," an official said.

Currently, the new meters (right) are being installed in Rajajinagar, R.R. Nagar, Whitefield and Indiranagar areas. •SUDHAKARA JAIN

Progress of replacement of electromechanical meters as on July 21

Circle	Division	Total progress
West	R.R. Nagar	6,558
West	Rajajinagar	5,266
East	Whitefield	722
East	Indiranagar	785

'Denying education to hijab-clad girls is sartorial despotism'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

K. Chandru, a retired judge of the Madras High Court, described girls being denied entry into educational institutions or not being allowed to write exams because they were wearing hijab as "sartorial despotism".

He was speaking after releasing the translation of his book *Listen to My Case* into Kannada, brought out by Kriya Madhyama, and a discussion on women and access to law. India cannot be dictated from Nagpur, but has to be dictated by "We the people of India" who gave the Constitution to themselves, said Mr. Chandru.

He said the fundamental issue is that education cannot be denied to children. "In the name of discipline, in the name of uniform, education cannot be denied to thousands of people," he argued, talking about the hijab controversy in Karnataka. There is an "experiment in Karnataka now on how to exclude people from the system", he said, calling it "majoritarian doctrine". He underlined the need to look at gender justice with several other social issues woven into it and not in isolation. Even though more women are taking up law as a profession, to the common people and especially women, the gates of the judiciary are not just unwelcoming but also intimidating, he said.

The book *Listen to My Case* narrates the stories of 20 courageous women and their interface with the courts in Tamil Nadu, in most cases the Madras High Court.

BBMP prohibits use of its name on garbage trucks

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

After multiple incidents of pedestrians and other motorists getting killed in road accidents involving garbage trucks and transport vehicles of contractors, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has prohibited the use of its name on these vehicles.

A circular issued by the Special Commissioner of Solid Waste Management stated that mentioning of 'in the service of BBMP' on the vehicles has been prohibited with immediate effect. The circular further states that using BBMP's name on transport vehicles is illegal. The commissioner has instructed officials to make sure that such nameplates or words painted on vehicles are removed. If the contractors fail to oblige, action will be initiated against them. BBMP officials will also check documents pertaining to garbage trucks and those who drive them.

Autorickshaws carrying garbage parked near Yediyur lake in Bengaluru. •BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

The BBMP maintains that whenever garbage trucks are involved in accidents, the media reports that 'BBMP's garbage trucks' were involved in the accident and the public develop a wrong perception about the BBMP. It has also decided to initiate criminal action against unauthorized people using the name of BBMP on vehicles that are not used for services of the corporation. "If such vehicles are involved in road accidents and result in fatalities, the vehicle owners are liable to pay the compensation."

Poultry Science Excellence Award conferred

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Pashudhan Praharee, a bilingual magazine dedicated to animal health care and livestock development, has honoured Inayath Ulla Khan, Executive Secretary, Karnataka Poultry Farmers and Breeders' Association (KPFBA), with the Prof. G. Deve Gowda Poultry Science Excellence Award 2022.

The award has been instituted in recognition of his significant and outstanding contribution in the field of poultry sciences in 2022.

Mr. Khan was presented the award at a recent seminar on 'GM Crops and Animal Nutrition' in the presence of Prof. G. Deve Gowda who is considered as the 'Pitamaha' of poultry sciences, KPFBA president Sushanth Rai, Chairman of Compound Livestock Feed Manufacturers Association of India Neeraj Srivastava, and other dignitaries.

'Don't construct or widen roads in Subramanyapura, Begur lake areas'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has directed the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara (BBMP) not to construct any new roads or widen existing roads within the area of Subramanyapura and Begur lakes.

However, it permitted the palike to construct the walkway bund around Subramanyapura lake measuring 3 m in width using desilted material from the lake. The HC made clear that no construction material except mud should be used for the purpose of the walkway bund.

A Division Bench comprising acting Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice J.M. Khazi issued the directions on July 20 while hearing a batch of PIL petitions related to lake and stormwater drain maintenance, through which the court is monitoring actions taken by the authorities to protect, preserve and rejuvenate lakes in Bengaluru city.

The Bench also directed that the walkway bund shall be used by the BBMP for the purpose of maintenance of the lake for dewatering, desilting, de-weeding, etc., and should be properly made without compromising on the actual lake area.

Timeline not realistic

Meanwhile, the Bench termed 'not realistic' the timeline of about 105 days submitted by BBMP's designated officer for the removal of various identified encroachments on the two lakes.

Pointing out that the encroachments still exist even though petitions were filed back in 2014, the Bench fixed a timeline of 30 days for survey, notice, preparation and removal of the encroachments. The survey and physical marking of the encroached portions of the lakes should be done within ten days, and notices shall be issued to the encroachers within a week after on completion of survey. The human resource and machinery including police protection shall be provided to the designated officer by the State government within period of three days after issuance of notices, and the encroachment should be removed within a period of 10 days thereafter, the Bench made it clear.

The Bench adjourned further hearing till September 1 while directing the BBMP to submit a compliance report.

BEFORE THE HON'BLE DISTRICT JUDGE, COMMERCIAL COURT, BENGALURU DISTRICT, BENGALURU
COM O.S.No.594 of 2022 (CCH No.88)
BETWEEN: Sri. T.B.Joshi
S/o Sri.T.K.Balakrishnan Aged about 61 years
Proprietor of M/s Samyuktha Polymers,
A proprietary concern having its office at:
No.265/A, Bommasandra Industrial Area,
Hosur Road, Bengaluru-560099
Represented by his duly constituted
GPA Holder: Mr. Shashikumar Menon,
Aged about 46 years, S/o Sri. Rajappan
Menon, Working as Manager - Accounts in
M/s Samyuktha Polymers, Having its Office at:
No.265/A, Bommasandra Industrial Area,
Hosur Road, Bengaluru-560099
AND
Plastomax (India) Private Limited,
A Company incorporated and registered under the Companies Act, 1956, Having its
Registered Office at Plot No.240 & 241,
Bommasandra Industrial Area, Bommasandra
Jigani Link Road, Bengaluru-560102
Represented by its Directors.
Summons to Defendant under Order V Rule 2(1A) of Civil Procedure Code.
Whereas, the Plaintiff has instituted the above suit against you for recovery of money of Rs.27,99,140/- (Rupees Twenty Seven Lakhs Ninety Nine Thousand One Hundred and Forty Only) to the Plaintiff with current and future interest at the rate of 24% p.a. on the principal sum of Rs.12,62,936/- from the date of suit till the date of realization. You are hereby summoned to appear in this court in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions on the **6th day of August 2022 at 11.00 in the forenoon.**
Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before mentioned the petition will be proceeded with and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and seal on this the 21st day of July 2022.
By Order of the Court Sheristedar
City Civil Court Bangalore
Advocate for Plaintiff
Sri. Ganesh Bhat Y.H, Advocate,
#22, I Floor, Yamunabai Road,
Madhavanagar, Bengaluru-560001.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that we are investigating the ownership right, title and interest of **Sri. G.S. SHIVAKUMAR** S/o Sri. G.M. Shanmukhappa, aged about 53 years, R/o:- E 98, 1st Cross, E Block, Gopalagowda Extension, Shimoga, Karnataka-577205 to the vacant property described in the Schedule hereunder written ("the Property").
The investigation is in respect of a proposed purchase of the property by our client **Sri. B.B. PATIL & Smt. MALLAMA B. PATIL**
All persons/entities including individuals, Hindu undivided family, company(ies), bank(s), financial institution(s), non-banking financial institution(s), firms, association of persons or body of individuals whether incorporated or not, lenders and/or creditors having any objection, claim, right, title, benefit, liability, commitment, interest and/or demand of whatsoever nature against/upon/in respect of the Property or any part or portion thereof including development rights, by operation of law or otherwise, assignment, bequest, charge, covenant, care-taker understanding, devise, power of attorney, agreement for sale, memorandum of understanding, exchange, encumbrance, partnership, family, arrangement/settlement, litigation, easement, gift, inheritance, pledge, lease, sublease, lien, attachment, license, lis-pendens, reservation, mortgage, maintenance, succession, possession, right of way, allotment, sale, share, sub-tenancy, tenancy, transfer, partition, release, relinquishment, will, occupation, agreement, or any understanding, or beneficial right/interest under any trust, right of prescription or pre-emption of under any agreement or other disposition or under any decree, order or award passed by any court or authority or otherwise claiming howsoever or claiming to be in custody/ possession of the title deeds, documents and writings pertaining thereto or any liability or commitment, demand or otherwise of any nature whatsoever howsoever, to or upon the Property or any part thereof ("Claims") are required to give notice of the same in writing along with relevant documentary proof in that regard to the undersigned at its office at Shekhar Law Associates, Advocates, No 919, 5th Main, M.C. Layout, Near BGS Metro Station, Vijayanagar, Bangalore - 560040, **within 14 (fourteen) days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which it shall be deemed that the claimant(s) has / have relinquished such Claims and/or waived the right to exercise such Claims and the right, title and interest of the Owner to the Property shall be deemed to be clear and marketable and free from all encumbrances of any nature whatsoever.
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Date: - 24th July 2022

EXPRESSSION OF INTEREST FOR SELECTION OF A CONSULTANT FOR ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN, PLANNING & CURATION OF TEMPLE MUSEUM AT AYODHYA

Directorate of Tourism (DoT), Government of Uttar Pradesh, invites EOI for Selection of a Consultant for Architectural Design, Planning & Curation of Temple Museum at Ayodhya. Interested parties may download bid document from e-tender website **http://etender.up.nic.in and also from Department of Tourism official website: - http/uptourism.gov.in.** Expression of Interest [EoI] can be submitted online on or before 2.00 PM by 08-08-2022 along with requisite Fee, on the website **http://etender.up.nic.in.** Amendments to this Notice Inviting Tender (NIT), if any, would be published on the website http://etender.up.nic.in and uptourism.gov.in.

The pre-application conference for the EoI's shall be held on 29-07-2022; 12:00 PM at Department of Tourism, Paryatan Bhawan 4th Floor, C-13, Vipin Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010 Uttar Pradesh, India. DoT reserves the right to reject all or any of the applications/bids without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

For inquiry, Department of Tourism can be contacted through email: **pmu.uptourism@gmail.com** or mobile +91-8130491211 or +91-7607230148 or through office visit at its main office Directorate of Tourism Government of Uttar Pradesh Paryatan Bhawan, C-13, Vipin Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010, Uttar Pradesh (India)

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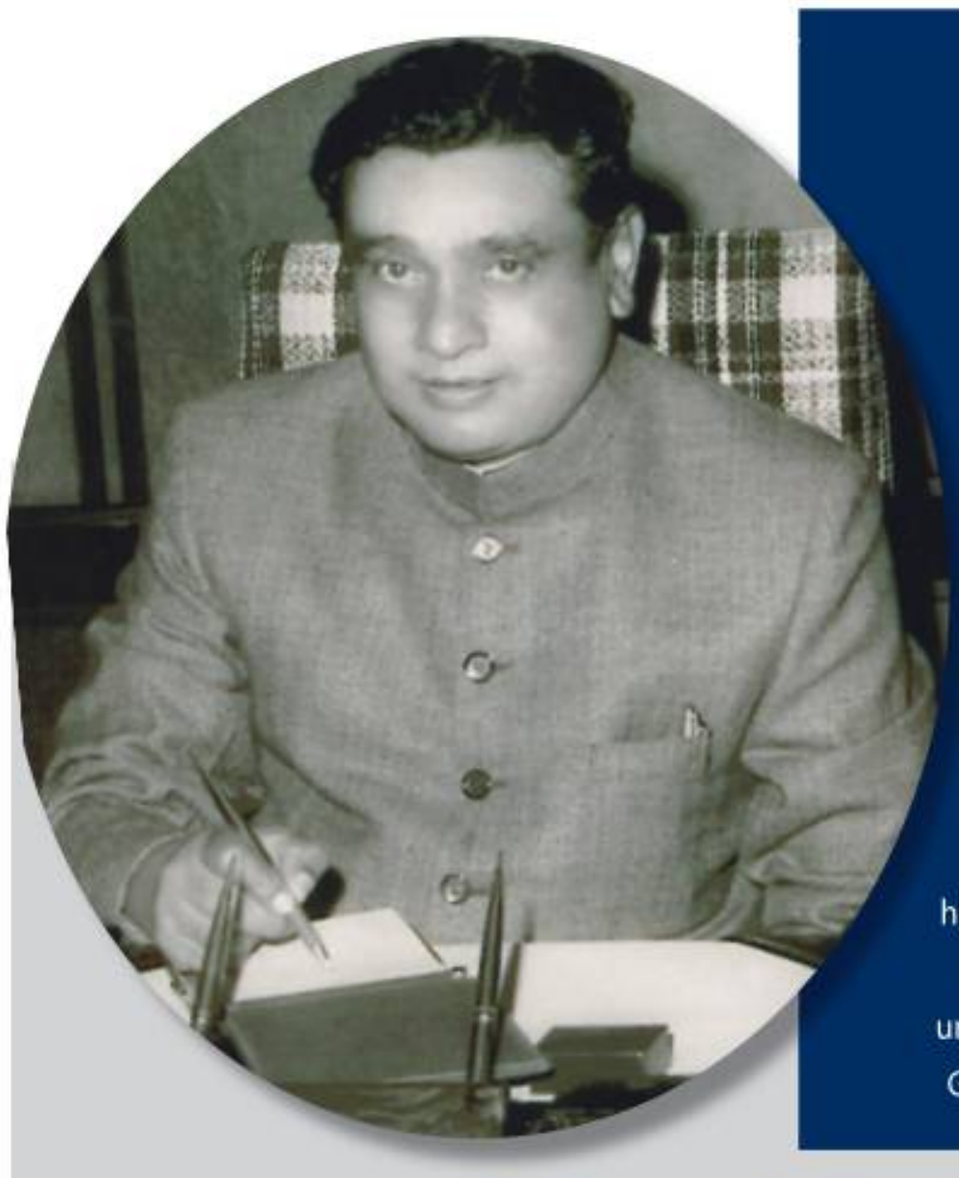

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An overview of our Founder

Born on 24th July 1921, to humble beginnings in a small village in South Bangalore, the son of a farmer, Shri R Dayananda Sagar went on to pursue his studies in government schools and the Mysuru Maharaja College.

Began his career working as a Headmaster in a Primary School, in the spirit of contributing back to the society.

Graduated in Economics & Law from the prestigious Gray's Inn institution in London and was conferred the Fellowship of the Royal Economics Society, F.R.Econs (England).

Pursued many interests during his lifetime: Law, Art, Theatre, Journalism & donned roles as a Newspaper Editor, Writer, Film Producer & Director, in addition to his role as Social Reformer.

Patron of numerous social causes – strongly influenced by Mahatma Gandhi's Indian Freedom Movement, he was imprisoned several times during the Quit India Movement.

Lead the Farmer's Movement, established the Silk Research Center (Bangalore) & Chaired the NGEF.

Elected Member of the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council, served as the Minister for Sericulture in the Government of Karnataka.

Sri S. M. Krishna
Former Chief Minister of Karnataka,
Former Union Minister,
Former Speaker of the Karnataka Legislative Assembly,
and Former Governor of Maharashtra
Will inaugurate the event by Lighting the Lamp

Sri Basavaraja Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka,
Government of Karnataka
Will be the Chief Guest

GUESTS OF HONOUR

Sri R. Ashoka
Hon'ble Minister for Revenue

Dr. C. N. Ashwath Narayan
Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education & Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood of Karnataka
Will release the **DSI Handbook**

Dr. K. Sudhakar
Hon'ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare and Medical Education

Annotation by:
Dr D Premachandra Sagar
Vice Chairman - DSI,
and
Pro-Chancellor,
Dayananda Sagar University

Presidential Address by:
Dr. D. Hemachandra Sagar
Chairman - DSI,
and
Chancellor,
Dayananda Sagar University

Dayananda Sagar Institutions
Bengaluru

Dayananda Sagar University Bengaluru

CDSIMER
Dr. Chandramma Dayananda Sagar Institute of Medical Education and Research

Venue:
Dr. D. Premachandra Sagar Auditorium & Centre for Performing Arts,
Shavige Malleswara Hills,
Kumaraswamy Layout, Bengaluru.
Time: 9.00 AM **Date:** 24.07.2022

22 07 2022

www.dayanandasagar.edu | www.dsu.edu.in | www.sagarhospitals.in | www.cdsimer.edu.in

Khadi units in doldrums as costs rise, raw materials become scarce

They struggle to remain afloat with steep hike in cotton prices and shutdown of the sliver unit in Chitradurga, bringing most spinning activities to a standstill

SHARATH S. SRIVATSA
BENGALURU

Synonymous with the freedom struggle and a symbol of swadeshi, the khadi industry is currently in the doldrums as the country gears up to celebrate 75 years of freedom from colonial rule. A steep hike in cotton price and shutdown of the sliver unit in Chitradurga for nearly a year now has brought most spinning activities to a standstill as khadi institutions struggle to stay afloat.

The nearly century-old Badanavalu Khadi Kendra, near Nanjangud in Mysuru district that was inaugurated by Mahatma Gandhi in 1927 has stopped spinning for nearly five months, while the more than 65-years-old Dharwad Taluk Seva Kendra has not seen spinning activities for more than four months. The situation is as dire in other units, leading to job losses.

The nearly century-old Badanavalu Khadi Kendra in Mysuru district that was inaugurated by Mahatma Gandhi in 1927 has stopped spinning for nearly five months. • FILE PHOTO

Pandemic impact

The problem for the khadi units, that are already saddled with huge stock due to COVID-19 pandemic, increased in the last one year as cotton price is the highest in the last decade as the country is facing a cotton production shortfall. The cost of sliver supplied by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has increased by about 60%. Sliver that would cost around ₹225 a kg now cost ₹385 a kg.

"After shutting down spinning for a couple of months, we are operating just about 15 days in a month," Karnataka Sarvodaya Sangha president Arun Kumar said. "Most khadi producers are facing problems with capital as they are stuck with huge stocks. Unless they are able to sell, they cannot buy sliver."

For Badanavalu Khadi Kendra, which sells products through four retail outlets, the problem is different. "At the old price, our hand spun-hand woven towels worth ₹280 would cost ₹199 after rebate. If we buy sliver at the current cost, the same towel has to be priced around ₹500. How can society be run when prices are so high?" asked manager of Kendra D.S. Somashekar. With spinning stopped at this kendra, which provided employment even during peak pandemic, about 45 women are now unemployed.

Fire fiasco

A big part of the problem for the khadi industry in Karnataka has been the shutting down of the KVIC's Sliver Production Centre at Chitradruga due to a fire accident last September. The refurbished plant will take time to become operational. KVIC now sources sliver from Thrissur, Coimbatore and Tiruppur which results higher costs, though supply is not disrupted.

Sources also say that the demand had come down due to high cost and financial conditions of the institutions. In fact, of the 65 registered khadi institutions, 25 have received sliver this year so far while orders of five are being processed. According to Santosh Koulagi of Janapada Seva Trust, Melukote, those with sliver stock continue to spin while others have not placed fresh orders or reduced their orders because it is expensive.

Before the KVIC's sliver plant at Chitradurga, individual khadi producing units were self-sufficient and undertook the roving process to make sliver on a small scale. "With the technology becoming obsolete, the old machines were scrapped. If we have to get sliver on our own, then machineries worth lakhs have to be installed. When societies are facing serious financial issues, where will we get the money from?" Narahari Kaginele, the secretary of Dharwad Taluk Seva Kendra, asked.

While the society has stocks worth ₹1.5 crore, it has stopped spinning for around three months. "The sliver coming from outside the State is expensive. As it is, Khadi is an expensive product and rebates are announced for customers based on the 35% subsidy given by the State and Union governments. We cannot further increase the cost. Our society is now focused on clearing stocks than producing new ones," said Mr. Narahari.

As the situation is turning grim, some of the societies with poor financials may fold up soon, unless the government intervenes with sliver pricing.

Loss of jobs

An estimated 10,000 women, mostly in rural areas, who spun the yarn with charakas have been rendered jobless. Many have turned to agriculture as labourers or working as maids to eke out a living.

Earning

A pay of ₹7.5 is fixed for spinning every thousand metres of yarn derived from the sliver. An additional ₹4 is given as incentive. On an average, a worker earns between ₹100 and ₹150 daily.

5% GST on cotton sliver

The khadi too could not escape GST. While khadi products are exempted from GST, the cotton sliver from which the yarn for khadi fabric is derived is charged at 5% GST.

The industry that is reeling under tremendous stress is also affected by this.

"It is a contradiction. While to make the khadi product we pay GST at 5%, on the full product the State and Union governments give a total of 35% subsidy," Narahari Kaginele, president of Dharwad Taluk Seva Sangha, said.

"It is unfortunate that a product that was so attached to the independence movement has a GST component."

No govt. response

Arun Kumar, president of Karnataka Sarvodaya Sangha, said despite petitioning the government, nothing has happened so far. "There is no collective leadership to speak to the government."

Changes to Flag Code upset many

Changes brought to the Flag Code that removed the exclusivity of making flag with khadi have riled many.

"There are more than 10,000 cooperative societies in the country that could have been entrusted with making the khadi flag. By this way, these societies could have been saved and Atmanirbhar Bharat could also have a meaning," said Narahari Kaginele, president of Dharwad Taluk Seva Sangha.

According to Santosh Koulagi of Janapda Seva Trust, thousands of crores worth of khadi material remains unsold in the cooperative sector that could have been used for making the flag.

Satyagraha

Meanwhile, theatre artist Prasanna is launching a 'flag satyagraha' on July 31 in Mysuru with a padayatra from Gandhi Square to Freedom Park (Subbarayanakere) to create awareness about the significance of khadi in the flag. "Har Ghar Tiranga is a laudable effort to enable people to hoist the tricolour. However, with the changes in the Flag Code, the government intends to fly a foreign made Indian Flag on every household this Independence Day," he said.

Rain or shine

The 30th State-level slush field sports festival evoked warm response despite the intermittent drizzle at Kaggodlu village in Madikeri taluk on Saturday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

FROM PAGE ONE

BSY does a U-turn

"There has been pressure on me from voters of Shikaripura to contest from the constituency again in 2023, which I have decided not to. To pacify them, I suggested that Vijayendra could contest from there. It was only a suggestion. There are demands for him to contest from Mysuru, Mandya, and Chamarajanagar districts as well. The final decision can only be taken by the party high command," he said. Sources close to Mr. Yediyurappa said though he had to issue a clarification, his statement in Shikaripur had "let the people, especially the Lingayat community, know what he wishes for" and now it was difficult for the high command to disregard it, without repercussions.

After meeting Mr. Yediyurappa, the Chief Minister also termed the former's statement as a "suggestion." Responding to a question, he said Mr. Yediyurappa was the party's tallest leader and there was no question of his retirement.

Trekking for women on Aug. 13

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The Lal Bahadur Mountaineering Institute is organising an all-women trekking expedition to the Uttari Betta in Kunigal on August 13.

For details on the event, mail to lmi.expedition@gmail.com

'Worship party, not individuals'

Keep mouths shut and work to bring party to power: DKS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Differences between Congress leaders on who should be the Chief Minister if the party comes to power in the 2023 State Legislative Assembly elections continued with KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar calling upon party members to "first work to bring the party to power."

Reacting to party MLA B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan's remark that people of the State wanted Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah to be the next Chief Minister, Mr. Shivakumar asked all party leaders to "keep their mouths shut and work to bring the party to power." He said he was issuing the direction not only to Mr. Khan. "I am telling this to everyone," he said.

Mr. Shivakumar told his partymen, "Stop worshipping individuals and bring more people to the party. The organisation is bigger than individual ambition." He was apparently referring to Mr. Siddaramaiah and his loyalists, who have decided to hold a birthday event on August 3.

In response to Mr. Shivakumar's statements on him, Mr. Khan told reporters that it was the KPCC chief who commenced the debate by seeking support for himself in a public forum. In a couple of recent functions in the Old Mysore region, Mr. Shivakumar appealed to the Vokkaliga community to which he belongs to extend their support for him to become the Chief Minister as they had supported H.D. Deve Gowda, H.D. Kumaraswamy and S.M. Krishna to become the Chief Minister.

He, however, said that the party high command would take the final decision. "I gave my personal opinion. What's wrong in telling my opinion?" Mr. Khan asserted.

Meanwhile, KPCC disciplinary committee chairperson K. Rahman Khan said the committee would serve notices to leaders who violate the party's discipline and work against the party's interest.

BEL signs ₹250 cr. contract with MoD

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Navratna Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Limited has signed a contract worth ₹250 crore with the Ministry of Defence for the supply of Integrated Anti-Submarine Warfare systems (IAC MOD C) for surface ships of the Indian Army. The indigenously developed IAC MOD C would be able to compute fire control solutions and facilitate the firing of ASW weapons such as Torpedoes and Rockets.

Kharge takes exception to debate on future Chief Minister in Cong.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

Senior Congress leader and Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha M. Mallikarjun Kharge on Saturday took exception to the debate on the future Chief Minister of the State in the Congress.

Fielding reporters' queries on the issue on his arrival in Mysuru to participate in a function to release a book on former Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's administration, Mr. Kharge said such a public debate long before the elections was inappropriate.

The post of Chief Minister is not something that the leaders can appropriate for themselves in the Congress. First, the party has to be brought to power with the required strength, he said.

Mr. Kharge made it clear that he had not found any leader in the Congress issuing statements on becoming the Chief Minister. Mr. Siddaramaiah and KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar too have said that it is the party high command that will take a decision on the post of Chief Minister, he added.

Mr. Kharge said the Congress always believes in facing elections under collective leadership and all the party workers are soldiers in the army. But, when somebody has to be made the captain, the high command will take a decision on the prevailing or future circumstances, he added.

When asked about his plans to return to State politics, Mr. Kharge said he will come back if he is given a chance.

Mr Kharge also criticised the BJP government at the Centre for misusing Enforcement Directorate to harass the leadership of the Congress and questioned the need for the Gandhi family which had made huge sacrifices for the country to indulge in petty money laundering.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

SAD DEMISE

Mr. K.G.SRINIVASAN [KGS]
Founder of John and Mani Group of Companies
Passed away on 22-07-2022
Deeply mourned by Family & Staff
Contact : 9566044452

REMEMBRANCE

REMEMBRANCE

ANURAG (GUNJI)
We miss you Son
- Dad, Mom

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the public that the Original Sale Deed dated 22.02.2010, registered as document No. MDP-1-04971 /2009-10, in Book I, at the office of the Sub Registrar Mahadevapura, Bangalore executed between M/s Citilights Estates Pvt.,Ltd and one of our client towards the apartment bearing No. 203-H in our project called "Citilights Rustique" at Pattandur Agrahara Village, ECC Road, Whitefield, Bangalore has been misplaced.

In case anybody finds this document kindly handover the same to the below address.

Safinaz, Advocate,
882, 3rd Cross, 11th Main,
HAL 2nd Stage, Bangalore – 560 038

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public at large that our Clients (i.e., M Surendra Reddy, M. Pallavi Reddy, R. Raja Reddy, A. Giri Prakash Reddy, Dr. Radhika, Kottam Madhuri, R. Venkatesh) being the absolute owners had entered into a Registered Joint Development Agreement dated 12.05.2014, registered as Document No.SRJI-00485 of 2014-15, stored in Book-I, CD No.SRJD147; and a General Power of Attorney 12.05.2014, with **M/s. Vivansaa Amaryllies**, (A Partnership Firm, Having office at No. 88, 1st Floor, Renuka Nilaya, 17th Cross, 14th Main, IV Sector, HSR Layout, Bangalore-560034), so as to develop property bearing Survey No.45/5, measuring 3 Acres 11 Guntas situated at Hardenahalli Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk (morefully described in Item No.1 to 3 of the Schedule hereunder and hereinafter referred to as 'the Schedule Property').

However, in view of fundamental breaches of the abovementioned agreements by **M/s. Vivansaa Amaryllies**, our Clients were constrained to terminate the Joint Development Agreement dated 18.09.2021 and cancel the General Power of Attorney. In view of the abovementioned termination, our Clients have also initiated Com A.A. No. 177/22 before the Hon'ble Commercial Court, at Bangalore against **M/s. Vivansaa Amaryllies** seeking for interim reliefs. In the meantime, **M/s. Vivansaa Amaryllies** have approached our Clients seeking to settle the dispute with our Clients by executing a deed of cancellation of the abovementioned JDA and GPA, both dated 12.05.2014, and settling all third party claims, if any, pertaining to the project 'Vivansaa Amaryllies'.

In view thereof, all bona fide agreement-holders, vendors, departments, Banks etc., who have transacted with **M/s. Vivansaa Amaryllies**, by way of any transaction pertaining to the Schedule Property or the proposed project prior namely 'Vivansaa Amaryllies' to the termination of the aforesaid Agreements may contact the undersigned in writing on or before 14.07.2022, along with proof of their respective agreements/ documents and claims if any. Claims received thereinafter will not be entertained.

Hence, the general public is therefore hereby cautioned not to hereinafter transact with / enter into any agreement of sale, sale deed or any other deed of transfer of title with respect to the Schedule Property with **M/s. Vivansaa Amaryllies** and it is made clear that any such transaction will not be binding on our Clients or on the Schedule Property and will be at one's own risk.

Schedule Property

Item No.1

All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted land measuring to an extent of 1 Acre Guntas in Survey No.45/5, situated Hardenahalli Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, duly converted for non-agricultural residential purposes by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore, vide his order bearing no. ALN(A)(S) SR:01/2006-07 dated 26.07.2012 and bounded by:

East by : Remaining portion in same survey number
West by : Remaining portion in same survey number
North by : Survey Number 45/4 and
South by : Remaining portion in same survey number

Item No.2

All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted land measuring to an extent of 1 Acre 11 Guntas in Survey No.45/5, situated Hardenahalli Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, duly converted for non-agricultural residential purposes by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore, vide his order bearing no. ALN(A)(S) SR:01/2006-07 dated 26.07.2012 and bounded by:

East by : Remaining portion in same survey number
West by : Land Survey Number 44
North by : Survey Number 45/4 and
South by : Remaining portion in same survey number

Item No.3

All that piece and parcel of the residentially converted land measuring to an extent of 1 Acre in Survey No.45/5, situated Hardenahalli Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, duly converted for non-agricultural residential purposes by the Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore, vide his order bearing no. ALN(A)(S) SR:01/2006-07 dated 26.07.2012 and bounded by:

East by : Road
West by : Remaining Portion in same survey number
North by : Survey Number 45/4 and
South by : Remaining portion in same survey number

AJAY SHANKAR,
Partner.
For:
A&Y Partners,
Advocates,
F-3, Ligasry Court, 7, Palm Grove Road,
Victoria Layout, Bangalore-560047.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
(Public Works Department)
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DIVISION: YADGIR.

No.EE/PWD/Divn/YDG/TS-1/e-Tender/2022-23/1711 Dated: 22.07.2022

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

1) Details of works : On behalf of Governor of Karnataka as per KTTP Amendment 1999-2000 Act 2000 Standard Bid Document KW-1,2,3&4 Karnataka Public Works Department invites item Rate Tender by One Cover & Two Cover System Through e-Procurement Portal from Eligible Agency/Contractors for following works pertaining to Yadgir Taluka-06 & Shahapur Taluka-08 Nos. Total 14 Nos of works. Under KKRDB Plan for the year 2020-21, 2021-22 & 2022-23 the Work Indent No's are as follows, (1)154100, (2)154628, (3)154453, (4)154069, (5)154272, (6)154559, (7)154281, (8)154292, (9)154638, (10)153947 and (11)154733. SC Reserved : (1)154271 & (2)154278, ST Reserved: (1)154683. 2) Estimate Cost : **Minimum Rs 10.00 Lakhs and Maximum Rs.500.00 Lakhs,** 3) Contractor Eligible Details: Class-4th & Above (As per rule), 4) Tender Procesing Fee and EMD Details : Tender Fee as per e-proc and EMD Minimum Rs 10,300.00 and Maximum Rs.6,63,700.00, 5) Date & Time for Pre-Bid Meeting: **28.07.2022 (11.30 hrs) (For KW-4 Works),** 6) Date & Time for receipt of queries: **01.08.2022 (17.30 hrs),** 7) Last Date & Time for submission of the tender in e-procurement portal: **06.08.2022 (16.00 hrs),** 8) Date & Time of Opening of the Financial Bid: **08.08.2022 (11.30 hrs)(For KW-1 & 2 Works),** 9) Date & Time of Opening of the Technical Bid: **08.08.2022 (11.30 hrs)(For KW-3 & 4 Works),** 10) Date & Time of Opening of the Financial Bid : **12.08.2022 (11.30 hrs)(For KW-3 & 4 Works),** 11) For More Details Contact: Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division : Yadgir, 12) Website Address : www.e-proc.karnataka.gov.in

DIP/Yadgir/175/MC&A/2022-23

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD Division:Yadgir.

केंद्रीय भण्डारण निगम
(भारत सरकार का उपक्रम)
CENTRAL WAREHOUSING CORPORATION
(A Govt. of India undertaking)

CWC CO-PDORECT/ 200/2021-PERSONNEL/821 Final Notice Dated:11.07.2022

MEMORANDUM

Shri Pradeep C, Superintendent has remained unauthorisedly absent from duty from 05.01.2022 onwards. Such conduct at his part has resulted in disruption of warehousing operations at CW Gulbarga-II.

WHEREAS, Shri Pradeep C has joined at CW Gulbarga-II on 18.12.2021 after getting relieved from CW Dharwad on 27.11.2021 and proceeded on leave from 27.12.2021 to 01.01.2022. He attended Office on 04.01.2022. However, Shri Pradeep C, again absented from duty from 05.01.2022 onwards without written permission of the Competent Authority to grant leave. Shri Pradeep C was asked to join duty and submit explanation for his unauthorised absent. However, he did not respond to any official communication made by Warehouse Manager and RO, Bangalore through numerous phone calls, emails dated 28.01.2022, 04.02.2022, 10.02.2022 and Memorandums dated 10.02.2022, 23.02.2022, 24.03.2022 and 25.03.2022.

Shri Pradeep C, Superintendent has violated Regulation 20(ii)(h) of CWC (Staff) Regulations, 1986 by remaining absent from duty without written permission of the Competent Authority. He is, therefore, directed to submit his reply duly supported with necessary documents as to why action shall not be taken against him in accordance with Regulation 20(ii)(h) of CWC (Staff) Regulations 1986 for his unauthorised absence from duty without written permission of the Competent Authority.

Sh Pradeep C shall submit his reply, duly supported with complete enclosures, **not later than 26.07.2022.** Failing which, it will be presumed that he has nothing to represent or submit and appropriate action as deemed fit under the Regulation cited above would be taken against him without any further notice.

This shall be treated as final opportunity to submit his reply, if any.

To,
Shri Pradeep C, Superintendent,
S/o Sh. Chinnobaiah, Archana Nilaya, 5th Main Road, III Cross Road, Municipal Colony, Kelagate Chitradurga, Karnataka-577501

Sd/-
(Rakesh Kumar Sinha)
Dir (Pers.)/Disciplinary Authority

C.O.: 4/1, Siri Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg, Hauz Khas, New Delhi-110016
Tel: 26566107 e-mail: estlsection.co@cewcor.nic Website: www.cewacor.nic.in

Ex-Ministers, DGPs to be prosecuted in gutkha scam

The Tamil Nadu government accords sanction to the Central Bureau of Investigation to go ahead in the case

S. VIJAY KUMAR
CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu government has accorded sanction to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to prosecute former Ministers B.V. Ramana and C. Vijayabaskar, the retired Directors-General of Police S. George and T.K. Rajendran and seven others in the gutkha scam.

Official sources said the CBI's Anti-Corruption Unit (III), New Delhi, had sent a proposal of sanction to the State for prosecuting Ramana alias B. Venkatramana, the then Minister for Commercial Taxes; V.S. Kurinjiselvan, the then Deputy Commissioner, Enforcement, Commercial Tax Department, Chennai; S. Ganesan, the then Deputy Commercial Tax Officer, Chennai; C. Vijayabaskar, the then Minister of Health; Lakshmi Narayanan, the then Designated Officer, Food Safety Department, Chennai; P. Murugan, the then Food Safety Officer, Gummudipopondi Block, Tiruvallur; S. George, the then Commissioner of Police, Chennai; T.K. Rajendran, former Commissioner of Police, Chennai; R. Mannar Mannan, the then Assistant Commissioner of Police, Puzhal Range, Chennai; V. Sampath, the then Inspector of Police, Red Hills, Chennai; and A. Palani, the then Councillor/Chairman of the Health Committee, Chennai Corporation, under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

The gutkha scam was first exposed by *The Hindu* in June 2017.

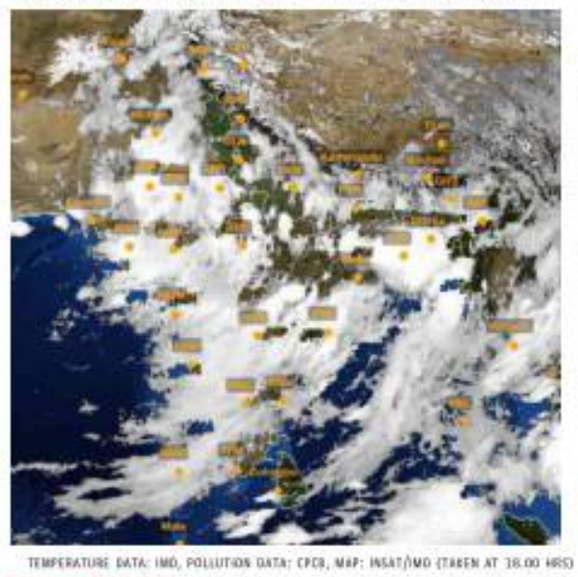
The investigating agency forwarded its report to the designated court on the collection of illegal gratification from suppliers of 'maava'/gutkha by the accused. When his opinion was sought by the State government, the Public Prosecutor said it was a fit case for sanction of prosecution against Mr. Ramana and 10 others since the material available on record disclosed a *prima facie* case to launch prosecution. Since the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, was the competent authority to accord sanction of prosecution against the retired IPS officers, it was decided to refer the case to the Union government to give sanction under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

The CBI's Anti-Corruption Unit (III), New Delhi, had sent a proposal of sanction to the State for prosecuting Ramana , the then Minister for Commercial Taxes and others
OFFICIAL SOURCES

The scam, first exposed by *The Hindu* in June 2017, pertains to the alleged involvement of the former Ministers, former IPS officers and other officials in the Tamil Nadu police, the Greater Chennai Corporation, the Food Safety Department and the Commercial Taxes Department in taking bribes to the tune of ₹39.91 crore for facilitating the storage, transport and sale of the banned commodity in Chennai city.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY


TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 16.00 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Saurashtra & Kutch, Jammu & Kashmir, Rajasthan, Nagaland, Odisha, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, central Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa, coastal Andhra Pradesh and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal and Kerala

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	3	35.6	27.0	Kozhikode	3	29.0	24.4
Ahmedabad	–	32.3	26.6	Kurnool	4	30.6	24.5
Aizawl	12	29.0	21.4	Lucknow	12	34.6	26.1
Allahabad	–	35.3	28.0	Madurai	11	34.3	23.3
Bengaluru	–	26.7	20.9	Mangaluru	12.3	27.6	23.6
Bhopal	–	26.0	23.6	Mumbai	5	31.3	25.8
Bhubaneswar	2.5	29.7	24.5	Mysuru	2	32.0	20.6
Chandigarh	–	35.0	28.1	New Delhi	8.5	34.9	25.5
Chennai	–	35.0	26.2	Patna	20	35.4	27.2
Coimbatore	0.2	30.6	22.6	Port Blair	20	28.4	24.1
Dehradun	3	32.8	23.9	Puducherry	–	35.6	24.4
Gangtok	–	23.6	16.7	Pune	0.6	27.0	22.4
Goa	0.1	30.4	25.4	Raipur	86.2	27.4	25.7
Guwahati	–	36.4	26.9	Ranchi	0.2	27.0	24.0
Hubballi	–	28.0	22.0	Shillong	8	28.3	18.5
Hyderabad	85	27.6	26.8	Shimla	2	25.6	20.2
Imphal	3	28.4	23.3	Srinagar	24	28.0	21.0
Jaipur	89	28.0	24.6	Thiruvananthapuram	4	30.0	24.2
Kochi	–	28.2	25.0	Tiruchi	1	35.7	24.5
Kohima	22	27.5	16.4	Vijayawada	34	31.6	24.4
Kolkata	11	33.1	27.5	Visakhapatnam	0.7	32.2	26.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — **Yesterday**

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	72	28	20	42	94	
Bengaluru	7	32	57	37	126	
Chennai	6	–	34	101	89	
Delhi	6	21	159	85	102	
Hyderabad	32	28	52	51	58	
Kolkata	12	11	16	29	49	
Lucknow	8	83	60	57	66	
Mumbai	25	3	112	21	78	
Pune	–	–	–	–	–	–
Visakhapatnam	14	41	29	51	103	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Kochi, Kerala recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 130 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Rajamahendravaram, Andhra Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 13

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)
SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.
NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.
CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.
PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

IN BRIEF

Evening OPs at major TS hospitals from Monday

HYDERABAD

Evening Out-Patient (OP) clinics at major Telangana government hospitals would start functioning from Monday. Timings of the evening OPs are 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. on all working days. A few government doctors have raised questions about the move like rules based on which the work timings are changed. Director of Medical Education K. Ramesh Reddy said that no one will be asked to work overtime.

Progress of construction at Vizhinjam reviewed

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A meeting held between Minister Ahammad Devarkovil and Adani Ports and SEZ CEO Karan Adani here on Saturday reviewed the progress of the construction of the Vizhinjam international seaport and discussed future investments.

Congress wary of apolitical groups

Preparation for Lok Sabha polls begins with two-day *Navsankalp Chintan Shivir* in Kozhikode

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOZHIKODE

Of the 52 seats that the Congress won in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, 15 were from Kerala. Retaining that number in the 2024 polls is a major challenge before the party which began a two-day brain-storming session titled *Navsankalp Chintan Shivir* here on Saturday to get ready for the polls.

The strategy of the party is to draw similarities between the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government in the State and the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government at the Centre, and be alert against new players such as the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and Twenty20. This was evident from the speeches delivered by leaders such as All India Congress Committee general secretary in-charge of organisation K.C. Venugopal, Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president K. Sudhakaran, former Chief Minister Oommen Chandy and senior leader Ramesh Chennithala on the first day.

Poll bugle: K.C. Venugopal, K. Sudhakaran and V.D. Satheesan at the meeting on Saturday. • K. RAGESH

Opening the *shivir* in the morning, Mr. Venugopal alleged that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) had been converted into an "election department" of the BJP.

The Union government was forcing Central agencies to act in a biased way. At the same time, efforts were on to polarise society on communal lines.

'Authoritarian line'

He alleged that Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan was following a similar authoritarian political line after his return to power. Mr. Venugopal claimed that the LDF victory in the 2021 Assembly polls was a result of an alliance between the BJP and the CPI(M).

The BJP had then created an impression that the Central agencies were about to arrest Mr. Vijayan in the diplomatic channel gold smuggling case, he said.

Mr. Chennithala almost echoed these claims and went a step ahead to warn the party cadre about organisations such as the AAP and Twenty20. "We need to be careful about these apolitical groups which claim that the LDF and the UDF are outdated. They are trying to eat into our vote banks. Parties such as the AAP are always found to play second fiddle to the BJP," he alleged.

The event will conclude on Sunday with the declaration of a 'Mission 24', an action plan for the Lok Sabha polls.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are here by informed that the below mentioned Scheduled Property is being purchased by my client VS.Abhinesh ,S/o.Late V.Sreerami Reddy residing @ 28-19/6-2, Kothaindlu,Punganur-517247,AP from the present owners R.Priya W/o.Late M.Rajesh Kumar, aged 43 years and her Son R.Kishore Kumar S/o.Late M.Rajesh Kumar, aged 17 years residing @ No.34,2nd cross,Ajjappa Block,RT Nagar,Bangalore -560032. The owners assert that the BDA property site No.836 had been allotted to her husband Late M.Rajesh Kumar S/o. Late S.S. Murthy vide allotment No.BDA/AC-R&R/836/ARK-BLK-111/2005-06 dated 30/12/2005 which is registered conveyance deed dated 15/07/2006 at office of Sub Registrar,BDA as document No.BDA-1-02180-2006-07 of Book-1,stored in CD No.BDAD111 and respective Khatha No.BDA/RON/3/836/06-07dated 29-08-2006, Possession letter No.44/2006-07 dated 21-07-2006 in the name of M.RAJESH KUMAR. After the demise of M.Rajesh Kumar on 08/11/2012 then his wife got registered and transferred the property in her name on 14/06/2022 at office of Sub Registrar,BDA as document No.BDA-1-00931-2022-23 of Book-1,stored in CD No.BDAD1094, Khatha No. BD007S220009627,dated 01-07-2022 and other property related documents on her name. Thus the ownership of the Scheduled Property Lies with the Present owners and are in peaceful possession of the same .That part,this legal notice is given to those that concerned any other person/s ,financial Institutions etc, has/have any objection or claim of any nature over the Schedule Property or any part there of, they are requested to lodge their written objections / claims with necessary documentary proof to the undersigned with in 10 days including date of publication. If no objections or claims with proof forthcoming within the said period ,our client shall construe that the Schedule Property is free from encumbrances and claims or hold. Further, any Subsequent objections or Claims raised by anybody thereafter the said date, shall not be considered and our client shall not be held responsible and our client shall go ahead with purchase of the Schedule Property from present owners.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that Residential Property bearing Site No.836 formed by Bangalore Development Authority, Situated at 3rd Block, Survey No.31, Sampigehalli Village ,Arkavathi Layout, Measuring 6.0 Meters (East - West) and 9.0 Meters (North -South) Totalling 54.0 Sqaure Meters and the property is bounded by :

EAST : Site No.835
WEST : Site No.837
NORTH : Site No.839
SOUTH : Road.

Sd/-
VENKATESWARA REDDY GRM KUMAR REDDY, ADVOCATES,
Flat No.009, Indus Innova, No.53, MG Ramkrishna Reddy Layout, Mahadevapura, Bangalore-56048.
PH: +91- 9666566111, 9845942113.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. SEE/WMC/TKR/1832-34 **Date: 20.07.2022**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(E-Procurement mode only)

KPTCL invites Tender for the following works in Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Tumakuru.

1) Bid Enq. No. SEE/TR(W&M)/TKR/EE(O)/AEE-3/Enq-03/ dated: 20.07.2022 for Shifting/Heightening of existing 66KV Pavagada-Nagalamadike S/C line passing on/near Govt. Higher Primary school building Bommathanahalli Village limits in Pavagada Taluk Tumakuru District by S/C line on D/C tower with Coyote conductor in TLM/SD Tumakuru Division by providing 1 number of DB+0 & 2 Number of DB+6 towers by dismantling existing towers.

2) Bid Enq. No. SEE/TR(W&M)/TKR/EE(O)/AEE-3/Enq-04/ dated: 20.07.2022 for Shifting/Heightening of existing 66KV Badavanahalli-Madhugiri S/C line passing near Govt. High school building Badavanahalli Village limits in Madhugiri Taluk Tumakuru District by S/C line on D/C tower with Coyote conductor in TLM S/D Tumakuru & Tumakuru Division by providing 1 number each of DB+6 & DD+6 towers by dismantling existing DP structures and RCC poles.

The detailed information regarding enquiries in E-procurement portal can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink e-procurement or **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **27.07.2022**. Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- **Superintending Engineer, Ele., Trans (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Siggaganga Complex, B.H. Road, Tumakuru - 2. Ph: 0816-2955095.**

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN:U40109KA1999SGC025521)

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement mode only)

K.P.T.C.L. invites tenders for the following works:

No:SEE/EE(O)/AEEE-1/2022-23/F/2581-586 **Date: 21.07.2022**

Bid enquiry No. KPTCL/2022-23/EL/WORK_INDENT9543 through e-Procurement mode from the reputed Electrical Contractors possessing Super Grade Electrical Contractor License having PF registration for the following works in TLSD, Jog Falls in 400KV SSM Division Talaguppa, Tr W&M Circle, Shivamogga.

Combined Package for the following works:

1) Replacement of 1 no's *DA+0 by Tower(DB+6) at Location No:130 of 220KV S-1 & 2 DC Line maintain vertical clearance at Location No 129-130 between bottom conductor and ground near Kanagodu limits in Anandapura Transmission Lines Section.
2) Providing One No. of 220KV DC intermediate Tower(DB+6) between Location No:253-254 of 220KV S-1 & 2 DC Line maintain vertical clearance between bottom conductor and ground near Kumsi limits in Anandapura Transmission Lines Section.
3) Providing One No. of 220KV DC intermediate Tower (DB+3) between Location No.159-160 of 220KV S-1 & 2 DC Line maintain vertical clearance between bottom conductor and ground near Hosuru limits in Anandapura Transmission Lines Section.
4) Providing One No. of 220KV DC intermediate Tower (DB+6) between Location No:224-226 of 220KV S-3 & S-4 DC Line maintain vertical clearance between bottom conductor and ground near Tuppuru limits in Anandapura Transmission Lines Section.

No:SEE/EE(O)/SMG/AEEE-1/2022-23/F/2623-629 Date: 22.07.2022

5) **Bid enquiry No. KPTCL/2022-23/EL/WORK_INDENT9545** Shifting/Heightening of existing 220kV Kadur- Dabaspete & Shivamogga - Arasikere DC line passing through the Government Tool Room & Training Center, Kadur in between Loc.No.213 to Loc.No.214 in Birur TLM section & TLMSD Kadur in Chikkamagaluru District.
6) **Bid enquiry No. KPTCL/2022-23/EL/WORK_INDENT9546** Shifting/Heightening of existing 220kV Shivamogga - Antharasanahalli & Shivamogga - K B Cross DC line passing through the Govt.High School Premises at Kuppal Village in between Loc.No.249 to Loc.No.250 in Birur TLM section & TLMSD Kadur in Chikkamagaluru District.
7) **Bid enquiry No. KPTCL/2022-23/EL/WORK_INDENT9548** Providing intermediate 220kV tower MB+6 (Ramachandra Rao Design) to 220kV ST-1 & 2 and 220KV SS-1 &2 MC lines passing over the Govt. Primary School, Basavanbailu, Siddapur (Tq), Uttarakannada (Dist) (Location No. 9 & 10) in TLM Jog section, TLSD JOG, 400KV SSM Division, KPTCL, Talaguppa.
8) **Bid enquiry No. KPTCL/2022-23/EL/WORK_INDENT9547** Replacement of Existing 220kV towers by NBT, DB+3 (2 No's)(Hoody HAL Design), DB+0 (Gadag Baglkote Design) towers to 220kV Gerusoppa - Shimoga 1, Sharavathi - Shimoga - 1 (DC line) line passing over the Govt. Higher Primary School, Talaguppa, Sagar (Tq), Shivamogga (Dist) (Location No.: 61-62) under TLSD, Jog, 400KV SSM Division, KPTCL, Talaguppa.

For detailed information and to participate in the tender through e-procurement mode please visit our website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** hyperlink "e-procurement" or directly you can access the tendering website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in on or after 11.00 AM on 24.07.2022 (for Sl. No. 1 to 4) and or after 11.00 AM on 25.07.2022(for Sl. No. 5 to 8)** Any other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Elecl.), Transmission(W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Prasarana Bhavana, MRS Colony, Harige Shivamogga-577203. Telefax : 08182-272624.

Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department
Office of the Executive Engineer Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department Division Koppal.
Phone & Fax No: 08539-220054 email: eemidnkst@rediffmail.com

No:EE/MI&GWDD/Koppal/PB/TP/2022-23/1899 Dated: 19-07-2022

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER

The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department Division Koppal invites tenders from the eligible tenderers registered civil contractors as per standard bid documents **KW-4** on E-procurement portal for 2 no of works pertaining to Koppal district. The amount put to tender for the mentioned works varies from Rs. **133.13** to **266.53 Lakhs** . The tenderers maysubmit tenders for the mentioned work through E-procurement portal only. **Two cover** tender procedure as per rule 28 of the KTTP act shall be followed. For more information the contractor can contact the under signed during office hours and all information regarding tenders can be had from website **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.** The tender documents can be downloaded from the above website address on or after **25-07-2022. Last date & time for receipt of tender is 03-08-2022 time 17.30 hours, pre bid meeting will be held on 29-07-2022 time 11.00 hours at this office,date & time for opening of technical bid 05-08-2022 time 11.00 hours, date and time for opening of financial bid 08-08-2022 time 11.00 hours (If technical bid sanction is accorded by the competent authority).**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department Division Koppal

DIPR/KOPPAL/2610/22-23/DESHPANDEPUBLICITY

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender Notice No.: 6/2022-23 Date:19.07.2022

Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Division, Chikkamagaluru, invites Tender through e-procurement for works related to in Koppa, Chikkamagaluru, N.R.Pura, Shringeri, Tarikere Taluks of Chikkamagaluru District. Minimum Amount foe work: **Rs. 78.10 lakhs** and Maximum Amount **Rs. 157.45 lakhs, Total 12 works (including package).** Details of undertaking the work or capability of implementing as per Standard Tender Document KW- 1,2 & 4 should be attached. Contract can be awarded only if the Contractors have the minimum eligibility as mentioned in Annexure-1. Tenders for works can be submitted through e-procurement from **19.07.2022 to 02.08.2022 up to 5.30 PM.** Tender will be opened on 02.08.2022 at 5.30 PM. If this day is declared as a holiday by chance, the next day will be considered. Notice can be read on **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** Further details can be obtained by contacting the case worker during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Division, Chikkamagaluru.

UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, RAICHUR
Estate Office, U.A.S. Raichur Campus.

No. EO/UASR/TN- 149/2022-23 Date:- 18-07-2022.

E –TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tender is invited on behalf of University of Agril. Sciences Raichur for hiring of vehicles for Rejuvenating Watersheds for Agricultural Resilience through Innovative Development(REWARD) at Raichur, Kalaburgi and Yadgir, as per KTPP Act and bid conditions from the registered travel agencies/owners through e-procurement portal. The details of notification schedule of events, specifications and conditions of contract can be had by visiting the link https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in there by registering with e-procurement portal.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

a) Last Date & Time for receipt of tenders : 02-08-2022 upto 16.00hrs, b) Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid: 03-08-2022 at 16.10hrs.

For more details, please contract Ph. No. 08532 – 220640, and visit the link https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in for detailed tender notification. Also Contact helpdesk number : 080-25501216 & 080-25501227.

Sd/- ESTATE OFFICER
U.A.S, RAICHUR.

DIP/Raichur/205/MC&A/2022-23

Government of Karnataka
(Department of Women and Child Development)
CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICE, GILLESUGUR
Ph.No.08532-295721 E-mail id:cdpowcdgls@gmail.com

No/cdpo/egg/t/e-pro/pu/2022-23 Date:21-07-2022

-:: E-PROCUREMENT TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT ::-

Tenders are invited through e-procurement from eligible tenderers for distribution of chicken eggs to 289 Anganwadi Centers under Gillesugur Child Development Scheme of Raichur Taluk for the year 2022-23. The complete details related to the tender can be obtained from the e-Procurement Portal of the Department of E-Governance, Government of Karnataka at the address http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in Available at.

1) Last date for online submission of filled tenders through e-procurement: D:22-08-2022 at 5.00 PM, 2) Technical Bid Opening Ticket Date: D:24-08-2022 Till: 11.00 AM hrs, 3) Financial Bid Opening Ticket Date : D: 26-08-2022 till: 11.00 AM hrs, 4) EMD Amount : Rs. 3,03,750/-

For more details Child Development Project Officer Gillesugur can be contacted at Tel No: 9945254537 and e-mail address cdpowcdgls@gmail.com.

Sd/- Child Development Project Office Gillesugur

DIP/Raichur/216/MC&A/2022-23

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Public at large is hereby notified that our client is intending to purchase the property bearing No.88, situated at 9th Cross, 8th Main, Saraswathipuram, Thonachikoppal, Chamaraja Mohalla, Mysore, measuring East to West 50 feet and North to South 83 feet which is more fully described in the schedule property below from its owner **Sri Mahesh Balakrishna**, S/o Dr. S. Balakrishna aged about 45 years, currently residing at : # 3250, Q Street, Washington DC NW 20007, USA. If any person /persons has /have any right, title, interest or claim over the schedule property, they may lodge their claims/objections with the undersigned within **15 days** from the date of this notification with supporting documents, failing which, our client will take it for granted that there are no claims/ objections over the schedule property and he will proceed to purchase the said property. Any claims/ objections received after the stipulated period of **15 days** will not be considered.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Property bearing No. 88, situated at 9th Cross, 8th Main, Saraswathipuram Thonachikoppal, Chamaraja Mohalla, Mysore measuring East to West 50 feet and North to South 83 feet bounded to the **East by** : Property No.90, **West by** : Property No.88, **North by**: Property No.76 and **South By**: Road.

B. K. Mohan, Advocate and Corporate Consultant,
Office: #11A, 2nd Main, Paramahamsa Road, Yadavagiri, Mysore - 570020. Cell: 9886243114.

Date: 23-08-2022, Place: Mysore

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, Mr. RAGHUNANDAN NARAYANA REDDY S/o C Narayana Reddy is the absolute owner of the property described in the Schedule hereunder.

It is brought to the notice of the general public that, our client has negotiated and decided to purchase the Schedule Property from the above said owner. Any persons having any claims against or to the Schedule Property or any part thereof by way of inheritance, mortgage, sale, conveyance, MOU, Agreement to Sell, G.P.A, transfer, lease deed, tenancy, license, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, gift, exchange, possession, adverse possession or otherwise howsoever are hereby required to submit the same in writing along with documentary proof to the undersigned at their office **within 10 days from the date of publication hereof,** failing which our client shall proceed without any reference to such claim and the same, if any, will be considered as waived.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Residential property bearing vacant **Site No. 384,** BDA PID No. 321714/0013, measuring East to West 12.00 meter and North to South 9.00 meter, totally measuring 108.00 square meters, formed by Bangalore Development Authority, at 9th Block Anjanapura Further Extension, Bangalore and bounded on: **East By:** Road, **West By** : Private property, **North By** : Site No.363 (Three Sixty Three) **South By** : Site No.365 (Three Sixty Five)

Dated this 24th day of July 2022 at Bangalore

M/S. LEGAL NEXUS,
ADVOCATES & CONSULTANTS,
No. 428, First Floor, 25th Cross, 24th Main, Sector 2, HSR Layout, Bangalore – 560 102,
Phone: 080-65859914,
Mobile: 9845608674; 9164159690

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FROM PAGE ONE

ED arrests West Bengal Minister in job scam

The cash seized by ED from the premises of an aide of the Minister on Friday. • PTI

Party leaders declared in a press conference that it had nothing to do with Ms. Mukherjee. Not surprisingly, Mr. Chatterjee has not been able to reach the party chairperson and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

After the arrest, Opposition parties targeted the State government, with BJP state president Sukanta Majumdar reaching out to the students engaged in protests over the issue for over 450 days. These students, mostly those who have cleared the SSC recruitment exam, have been demanding jobs.

Mr. Chatterjee and Mr. Adhikary were both questioned multiple times by the CBI in connection with the scam, after the Calcutta High Court directed the investigation agency to look into the recruitment scam while hearing writ petitions over the issue. The alleged irregularities in the recruitment of Group C & D staff, assistant teachers of classes IX-XII and primary teachers, involved handing out appointments in exchange for money while depriving candidates who had qualified in the recruitment process of a job.

Flagging fortunes of Khadi flag-maker

BIS officials make tri-monthly visits to ensure that standards and quality are maintained. The second and probably more important reason is that a polyester flag is very cheap when compared to the khadi flag.

Samyukta Sangha's Shivanand Mathapathi told *The Hindu* that the sanctity of the Tricolour had been "trivialised" by allowing polyester cloth. "We leave our slippers [outside] and enter the khadi units, particularly the flag unit. And no Khadi Sangha likes to demean the Tricolour by making it with polyester cloth," he said. As he spoke to this correspondent, he received calls asking for a supply of small flags in accordance with the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign, and also for polyester flags, to which he answered in the negative.

Letters of protest

In fact, when the news of the amendment to the Flag Code came, the Khadi Sangha has held a meeting and wrote to the Prime Minister and Home Minister seeking withdrawal of the amendment. A copy was also submitted to the Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and local MP Pralhad Joshi. But there has been no response so far.

They have now planned a symbolic protest on July 27. Around 500 persons, mainly women involved in the manufacture of khadi flags, will participate in the protest against the amendment at the Samyukta Sangha in Hubballi. The plan is to intensify the agitation if the apathy continues.

In all, around 1,200 persons, mainly women, are involved in the national flag manufacturing work in over 15 units of the Sangha spread across the districts of Dharwad and Bagalkot.

While Bengeri in Hubballi houses the flag manufacturing unit, where the work of stitching, printing and dyeing takes place, the khadi cloth is spun and woven in khadi units. including at Tulasigeri, spread over the district of Bagalkot.

The Khadi Sangha in Garag of Dharwad district is a separate unit where the khadi cloth for the flag is woven, but it has currently stopped production.

In another instance, as part of the same campaign, the government has changed the country's flag code by allowing the Tricolour to fly both day and night.

In a letter to secretaries of all Central Ministries and departments, Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla said the display, hoisting and use of the Tricolour is governed by the Flag Code of India, 2002 and the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971.

(With inputs from PTI)

Kin of J&K youth held under PSA to move SC

These youngsters are held in preventive detention in jails outside the UT and have lost all contact with their families

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

Families of several youth taken into preventive detention this year under the controversial Public Safety Act (PSA), which allows detention for up to two years without a trial, allege their kin were "shifted outside jails and held incommunicado" in violation of the provisions of the Act.

"I am not sure if my elder brother is alive or dead. I haven't heard from him since the Shopian police called him in March this year, as soon as he had finished his lunch that day. We were told he has to stay in the police station for a night. Then days passed and he was booked under the PSA and first shifted to Kot Balwal, Jammu, and then outside," Amir Hussian Lone, 19, younger brother of arrested Bilal Lone, told *The Hindu*.

As per official records, Bilal has been shifted to the Prayagraj Jail, Uttar Pradesh.

Stifling dissent: Most of the 200 youngsters detained this year had past involvement in street protests. • FILE PHOTO

A resident of Shopian's Heff Shirmal in south Kashmir, Bilal, who worked in local apple orchards, was first arrested in 2016 for allegedly participating in violent street protests. He was behind bars for around 45 days. However, the then Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti later announced a general amnesty to those facing cases during the 2016 street protests, sparked by the killing of Hizbul Mujahideen 'commander' Burhan Wani. Around 4,327 cases were withdrawn against those who participated in the protests.

Bilal, on his release in 2016, decided to live "a normal life". He got married and is a father of two now. "They keep blabbering 'Baba, Baba' and just want to have a glimpse of their father," Bilal's brother said.

Bilal, who is the eldest in the family, lost his father to cancer this year. "He had raised a loan for the father's treatment. We have been busy tending our father for the past two years. Now the bank officials visit us for the instalments. Only Bilal, who was our earning hand, can repay. We are living in hell," Amir said. "I don't have money to even attend his hearings in a Srinagar court," he added.

One unofficial estimate suggested around 200 youth faced detentions under the PSA this year. Most of them were those who had past involvement in street protests. With most jails running full in the Union Territory, the Lieutenant Governor's administration shifts those detained under the PSA to jails outside Jammu and Kashmir.

At least three such families, whose arrested kin have gone incommunicado after getting shifted to outside jails, have decided to knock at the doors of the Chief Justice of India.

Raja Begum from Srinagar's Parimpora does not know about the whereabouts of his son Arif Ahmad Sheikh since he was shifted to the Central Jail, Varanasi. Similarly, Sonullah, father of arrested Mohammad Mehraj-ud-Din from Bandipora's Gund Jahangir, Hajin, went incommunicado since he was arrested on April 8, 2022.

Petition in court

The families have decided to file a petition before the Supreme Court.

"We will plead for an order or direction to the respondents to make arrangements to allow the families, friends, counsels of the detainees to have access to communication," Syed Musaib, a lawyer in Jammu and Kashmir High Court, told *The Hindu*.

Lawyer Musaib said the plea will seek that the authorities "should give full effect to the enumerated rights provided for in the relevant statutes applicable to the detainees".

"The detenus detained under the provisions of J&K Public Safety Act, 1978 (Preventive Detention Law) are being arbitrarily shifted from local district and central jails within Jammu and Kashmir to the jails of other States. The families are incapacitated in communicating with the detenues and also the detenues are unable to get effective legal remedies," Mr. Musaib said.

He said a detenu being entitled to the basic right, among other rights, has the right to contact the outside world and family during the period of detention.

Till 2018, no detenu who was a resident of Jammu and Kashmir was shifted outside. However, since 2020, those detained under the PSA, were transferred outside Jammu and Kashmir by virtue of the amendment in the Act in 2020.

'Beam'ing capital

Night streak: A sky beam light installed at the Central Park in New Delhi on Saturday as part of the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations marking the 75th anniversary of Independence of the country. • PTI

Industry tag for Rajasthan tourism units

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

The 'industry' status accorded to the tourism and hospitality sector in Rajasthan earlier this year has given a sure and certain fillip to the State's tourism units that had incurred huge losses during the pandemic. The power tariff and other taxes levied on tourism operators have now been brought on a par with other industries, against the much-higher commercial rates levied earlier.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot had announced in his 2022-23 Budget speech in the State Assembly in February this year that the tourism and hospitality sector would be granted industry status. The concessions to the tourism sector as an 'industry' would bring a financial burden of ₹700 crore a year on the State exchequer, he said.

The Rajasthan domestic travel mart, which commenced here on Friday, dwelt on expanding the scope of tourism by highlighting the State's culture.

Art and Culture Minister Bulaki Das Kalla inaugurated the mart.

Two documents pertaining to the State's film tourism promotion policy-2022 and a memorandum of understanding with UNESCO on the intangible cultural heritage were released on the occasion.

Rajasthan Small Industries Corporation's chairperson Rajiv Arora said that after the pandemic, a new trend relating to wellness and nature had emerged in the tourism sector. Chief Secretary Usha Sharma said the allocation of ₹1,000 crore to the tourism development fund would help support the infrastructure development as well as aid activities for publicity.

Seer who protested against mining dies

Vijay Das had set himself ablaze

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

Vijay Das

Vijay Das, a seer who had immolated himself during a demonstration against illegal stone mining in the hills near Deeg in Rajasthan's Bharatpur district, died of his injuries at Safdarjung Hospital in New Delhi early on Saturday. He had been admitted to the hospital in a critical condition with 80% burns on Thursday.

Mr. Das was initially rushed to Jaipur for treatment on Wednesday but shifted to the hospital in New Delhi the next day. After the postmortem examination, the body will be taken to Barsana in Mathura district of Uttar Pradesh, for cremation.

BJP MP from Bharatpur Ranjita Koli said that Vijay Das had fallen victim to the activities of the powerful mining mafia playing havoc with the ecology in Bharatpur. "The protest against this by our seers and common people will be reason for the downfall of Congress government in Rajasthan," Ms. Koli tweeted.

While former Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje demanded a high-level inquiry into the incident, BJP national president J.P. Nadda appointed a four-member committee to visit Bharatpur and ascertain the facts.

This comes two days after the seers called off the protest, having been assured by the State government that a notification would be issued within 15 days to mark the entire region as forest area. The government has since decided to transfer 662.25-hectare land in Sikri tehsil and 95.15-hectare land in Pahari tehsil to the Forest Department with the instructions to carry out an intensive plantation. The over 40 mines that were operating in the region will be moved elsewhere.

The hills of Kankachal and Adi Badri near Deeg form part of the Braj Chaurasi pilgrimage circuit.

Seers looking after the pilgrimage had long been demanding the removal of stone quarries; they wanted the entire region declared as a forest area through a notification to stop mining activities.

Roger, the air traffic control is short of hands

The AAI has sought differentiated duty timings for four categories of airports on the basis of air traffic handled – major airports or those with more than 400 flights per day, airports with up to 100 flights, 30 flights and 10 flights per day. "We are examining the issue. We are also looking at global best practices and we should be able to resolve it shortly," a senior DGCA official said.

The DGCA brought out revised draft rules on the issue and invited stakeholder comments till July 5.

Existing rules require that an ATCO's duty period should not exceed 12 hours with a break of at least 30 minutes after every two hours. In the case of less busy airports, a break of 45 minutes should be given after three hours or 60 minutes after four hours. Each night duty should be followed by a 48-hour rest period.

The ATCOs are crucial in achieving high levels of safety for flights and assisting pilots during take-off and landing, and monitoring aircraft as they travel through the skies and prevent collisions.

Officials at the AAI as well as members of the Air Traffic Controllers Guild attribute the widening shortage to three factors – failure to create new posts for the past six or seven years, delay in recruiting new officers during the pandemic as well as a number of new airports expected to become operational later this year and in 2024.

These include an airport each in Goa's Mopa, Arunachal Pradesh's Hollongi and Hirasar in Gujarat to be opened within this year.

The AAI has to also cater to Navi Mumbai in Maharashtra, Dholera in Gujarat, Jewar in Uttar Pradesh, Bhogapuram in Andhra Pradesh and 17 other airports that are expected to become operational in 2024.

The DGCA's rules were framed in November 2020 after the UN aviation watchdog, International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), in its audit in 2018, said that the licensing of ATCOs must shift from the AAI to an independent regulator. But the AAI has already sought an exemption from implementing them four times.

Woman gang-raped at New Delhi railway station

Police arrest four Railway employees

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

A 30-year-old woman was allegedly gang-raped inside an electrical maintenance room at the New Delhi railway station on Friday, the police said on Saturday. Four railway employees have been arrested in the case.

The accused, working in the railway electrical department, have been identified as Satish Kumar, 35, Vinod Kumar, 38, Mangal Chand, 33, and Jagdish Chand, 37.

Distress call

The police received a call at 3.27 a.m. on Friday in which the woman alleged that she was raped by two men inside a room at the railway station. Later, a police team rushed to the location.

The woman, 30, has been separated from her husband for the past one year and a divorce case is pending in a court, the police said.

Over two years ago, the woman had come into contact with one of the accused through a common friend.

The accused had befriended her and promised to arrange a job for her.

They used to meet often and he used to support her financially too.

Invitation for party

DCP (Railways) Harendra Kumar Singh said, on Thursday, that the accused had invited the woman to his house to celebrate his son's birthday and the purchase of a new house recently.

The woman took a metro to Kirti Nagar and was picked up by the accused at 10.30 p.m. The accused then took the woman to the station and asked her to wait inside the electrical maintenance room.

Later, the accused and his friend came inside the room and sexually assaulted the woman.

Meanwhile, two of his accomplices guarded the room from outside, the DCP added.

An FIR under Section 376D (gang rape) and 342 (wrongful confinement) of the Indian Penal Code has been registered. The accused have been sent to judicial custody.

AAP to have more cadres in Himachal

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

With the Assembly election in Himachal Pradesh due later this year, AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal and Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann will visit the State on Monday to induct about 5,000 office-bearers, the party said.

The office-bearers are scheduled to take oath in the presence of AAP national convener and Delhi Chief Minister Kejriwal in Solan, according to party leaders. After Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain who was heading the party in the State was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate, the party has not been going full steam with election preparations in the State.

In June, senior party leader Manish Sisodia had announced new office-bearers of the State unit, which will be led by Surjit Singh Thakur.

The AAP had dissolved its Himachal Pradesh unit in April after its State president and many other leaders left the party and joined the BJP.

Minors rescued from BJP leader's farmhouse

Police say place was run as a brothel

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The Meghalaya police have rescued five children from a BJP leader's farmhouse that was allegedly run as a brothel.

Director-General of Police L.R. Bishnoi said illicit liquor, about 500 packets of condoms and contraceptive tablets, cash, 37 vehicles, 47 mobile phones and incriminating documents, were recovered from the farmhouse on the outskirts of Tura town, during an eight-hour search by the team on Friday night.

The police picked up 73 youth, including 23 women, and rescued five minors from the farmhouse owned by Bernard R. Marak, vice-president of the Meghalaya BJP unit.

"The recoveries indicate the place was run as a brothel," Mr. Bishnoi told journalists on Saturday.

He said the police could not find Mr. Marak at his residence in Tura or in the State capital Shillong

The BJP leader, however, issued a statement saying the raid on his farmhouse

Bernard R. Marak

was pre-planned.

"The raid was conducted without any warrant at the behest of the Chief Minister," he said, adding the minors the police claimed to have rescued from his farmhouse were students whose studies he has been sponsoring.

"Many of the youth the Tura police picked up were found in a compromising position," Mr. Bishnoi said.

Mr. Marak, a former extremist, had more than 25 criminal cases against him since the early 2000s.

The police said he continued to indulge in criminal activities such as extortion, arms smuggling and encroachment even after the disbandment of the outfit.

Yasin Malik on hunger strike in Tihar jail

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Separatist leader and Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front chief Yasin Malik has been on hunger strike inside the Tihar Jail since Friday morning, the officials said on Saturday.

According to sources, Malik alleged that he was not getting fair trial. However, the officials refused to comment on the reason.

Malik was lodged in the high-security jail number seven of Tihar Jail after he was sentenced by a special NIA court in Delhi in May. He was arrested in early 2019 in connection with the 2017 terror-funding case, registered by NIA.

According to reports, he wanted to appear physically in the case related to the kidnapping of Rubaiya Sayeed, daughter of former Union Home Minister Mufti Mohammed Sayeed, in December 1989

Previously, Sukesh Chandrashekhar went on a hunger strike for 17 days in the prison demanding to meet his wife, who is lodged in jail number six.

(with PTI inputs)

Smriti Irani cries foul as Cong. targets her over 'illegal' Goa bar

Union Minister accuses the Opposition party of running a malicious campaign

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Union Minister Smriti Irani accused the Congress of running a "malicious campaign" and "character assassination" after the principal Opposition party on Saturday alleged that her daughter was running an "illegal" bar-cum-restaurant in Goa and demanded the Union Minister's resignation.

Strong reaction: Union Minister Smriti Irani addressing a press conference at her residence in New Delhi on Saturday. • PTI

Responding to the allegations, made at a press conference by Congress leaders Jairam Ramesh and Pawan Khera, Ms. Irani said her daughter was being targeted "because of her mother's vocal stand on Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi's ₹5,000-crore loot in the *National Herald* case".

"My daughter's fault is that her mother holds a press conference on the loot of ₹5,000 crore by Sonia and Rahul Gandhi. Her fault is that her mother fought against Rahul Gandhi in 2014 and 2019 Lok Sabha polls," Ms. Irani said, asserting that her "18-year-old daughter is a first-year college student and does not run any bar".

Daring the Congress to show proof of any wrongdoing, Ms. Irani added, "I will seek answers in the court of law and court of people".

Taking to Twitter, Mr. Khera said, "Which Smriti Zubin Irani is lying? The one who on 14th April 2022 said she was proud of her daughter's restaurant or the one who today says her daughter has nothing to do with the Silly Souls Bar & Cafe?"

He also tagged a news report from April in which it was mentioned that Ms. Irani had shared food writer Kunal Vijaykar's positive review of Silly Souls restaurant, run by her daughter.

Earlier, Mr. Ramesh, Mr. Khera and Mahila Congress chief Netta D'Souza addressed a joint press conference where they alleged that the bar licence was taken in the name of a person who was no longer alive and an official of the Excise Department had issued a show cause notice.

"The licence by Smriti Irani's daughter is in the name of a person who died in May 2021, and the licence was taken in June 2022 in Goa. But the person in whose name the licence is, had died 13 months ago. This is illegal," Mr. Khera said.

Mr. Ramesh added that the charges against Ms. Irani's family were based on documents obtained through the Right to Information (RTI) Act.

"We demand from the Prime Minister that Smriti Irani be immediately sacked as a Minister from the Union Cabinet," Mr. Khera said.

Rise above partisan politics: Kovind

Interest of the nation remains our top priority, outgoing President tells MPs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Political parties should rise above partisan politics in the national interest and consider what is essential for the progress and welfare of the people, President Ram Nath Kovind said on Saturday.

In his farewell address to MPs at the Central Hall of Parliament, Mr. Kovind emphasised the value of peace and harmony, saying people had the right to oppose and create pressure to pursue their goals, but their methods must be Gandhian.

Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla joined the ceremony to bid farewell to the outgoing President, whose term ends on Sunday.

Against the backdrop of repeated disruption of parliamentary proceedings during the Monsoon Session, Mr. Kovind's comments assume significance.

"In keeping with this constitutional provision and adding my sentiment to it, I look at the President as an integral part of the parliamentary family. As with any family, there are bound to be differences within this parliamentary family too; there would be diverging views about how to proceed further. But we remain a family, and the interest of the nation remains our top priority," Mr. Kovind said.

Bidding farewell: President Ram Nath Kovind greeting MPs at Parliament House in New Delhi on Saturday. • PTI

"Political processes operate through the mechanism of party organisations, but the parties must rise above a partisan approach and consider what is good, what is essential for the common man and woman, with the spirit of nation first," he added.

High points of his term

Mr. Kovind described the *Swachh Bharat Abhiyan* to celebrate Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary and the *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav* to commemorate the 75th anniversary of India's Independence as the "high points" of his term.

The President not only lauded the Union government for its handling of the COVID-19 pandemic but also for its effort to raise the living standards of the marginalised sections and help them by providing electricity connection, drinking water and *pucca* houses.

Mr. Kovind said he would always be grateful to the citizens of country for giving him the opportunity to serve as President.

The outgoing President will address the nation on Sunday. President-elect Droupadi Murmu will take oath as the 15th President on Monday. He congratulated Ms. Murmu, and said the country would benefit from her guidance.

Addressing the gathering, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said Mr. Kovind's journey from a small village in Uttar Pradesh to the top constitutional post in India was a wonderful and inspiring achievement of the country's democracy.

Media running kangaroo courts, says CJI Ramana

Justice delivery is being affected, he says

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana on Saturday said the media was running "kangaroo courts" on issues even experienced judges found difficult to decide.

N.V. Ramana

Concerted campaigns against judges, particularly on social media, and media trials affected judicial functioning, he said, adding that doing justice was not an easy responsibility.

It is not easy to swallow when false narratives are created about the "easy life" led by judges, the CJI said.

He said ill-informed, biased and agenda-driven debates in the media on issues pending in courts were affecting justice delivery. "New media tools have enormous amplifying ability but appear to be incapable of distinguishing between the right and the wrong, the good and the bad and the real and the fake. Media trials cannot be a guiding factor in deciding cases," Chief Justice Ramana noted.

The media had breached its responsibility, taking democracy two steps backwards, affecting people and harming the system, he said.

"Print media still has certain degree of accountability. Whereas, electronic media has zero accountability as to what it shows vanishes in thin air. Still worse is social media. Owing to the frequent transgressions and consequent social unrests, there is a growing demand for stricter media regulations and accountability," the CJI said in his address at a function in Ranchi, Jharkhand.

He said it was best for the media to self-regulate and "measure their words". "Judges may not react immediately. Please do not mistake it to be a weakness or helplessness. When liberties are exercised responsibly, within their domains, there will be no necessity of placing reasonable or proportionate external restrictions," the CJI said.

Thakur tells media houses to introspect

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur on Saturday called upon private media houses to introspect about their functioning, if somewhere a wrong perception was being created about them indulging in "media trials".

He said the statement by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana on the media running kangaroo courts warranted introspection.

Speaking at an event held to mark National Broadcasting Day, the Union Minister said although some people had thought that radio would face an existential crisis with the advent of television and then the Internet, it recognised its audience and not only maintained its relevance, but also its credibility.

Mr. Thakur said: "Today, when people want to listen to unbiased news, they naturally tune in to All India Radio (AIR) and Doordarshan news."

Addressing the gathering, Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting L. Murugan talked about the role played by radio during the freedom struggle.

INTERVIEW | MOHAMMED ZUBAIR

'I think I was made an example for others'

The message was that government, if it minds, can keep you in jail for years, says Alt News co-founder

K.V. ADITYA BHARADWAJ

Journalist and fact checker **Mohammed Zubair**, *co-founder of the Alt News portal, is back home in Bengaluru, after a 23-day stay in prisons and police custody in Delhi and Uttar Pradesh over a bunch of FIRs filed in a matter of a week. He spoke on his arrest and its aftermath. Edited excerpts:*

What do you think led to your arrest?

■ I had in fact anticipated my arrest. Pratik Sinha and I, at Alt News for the work we do, always thought we could be arrested anytime. But after the video clip of former BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma's comments on a television debate I posted on Twitter went viral and led to a diplomatic issue internationally, I knew it was coming. They did not hide it either. There were Twitter storms and trending hashtags calling for my arrest, blaming the messenger for whatever happened in the country.

What went through your mind during your stay in police custody and prisons?

■ Multiple police forces I was with and the prison authorities treated me with respect. But the cases they were filing against me scared me. After I was sent to Tihar jail in the Delhi case, I was hopeful of bail. But in a matter of just a week, there were seven FIRs filed against me in Uttar Pradesh and a Special Investigation Team (SIT) formed to probe them. Knowing how U.P. Police SITs have functioned earlier, I lost hope and was preparing for a long stay in prison for maybe a year or two. I feared I was being fixed in a larger conspiracy case. That's why the Supreme Court judgment was overwhelming, and I think it is a landmark verdict protecting the liberties of those being targeted by the regime.

This government wants to silence all voices of dissent and anyone who is holding them to account

Why do you think you were targeted?

■ This government wants to silence all voices of dissent and anyone who is holding them to account through fact-checking, journalism and the likes, especially if they perceive you as being their critic. The role of my religion played no small role in it, I believe.

I think I was made an example for others. The message was that the government, if it minds, can book 10-15 random FIRs in multiple States and keep you in jail for years, but for the Supreme Court in my case. The FIRs filed against me are so random and bizarre – two FIRs in Uttar Pradesh are for fact-checking a media channel, which is my job, and another for calling the accused in a hate speech case, hate mongers in a tweet.

When are you back to work?

■ I will be back at Alt News in a week.

Sonia Gandhi to reappear before ED on Tuesday

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The second round of questioning of Congress president Sonia Gandhi by the Enforcement Directorate, in connection with the *National Herald* case, has been deferred by a day, and will now take place on Tuesday.

Ms. Gandhi, 75, had been questioned for a little over two hours on July 21 in connection with an alleged money laundering case.

Gopalkrishna Gandhi writes to President-elect

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Gopalkrishna Gandhi, the grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, on Saturday, congratulated Droupadi Murmu for being elected the President of India.

In a letter to the President-elect, Mr. Gandhi said, "On your historic election to the office of the President of India I extend to you my respectful felicitations. May your term of office be entirely successful and may you strengthen our Republic in every way."

Ms. Murmu will take oath as the 15th President of India on Monday.

APPOINTMENT

Central Tribal University of AP
Vizianagaram (A.P.)
Teaching Recruitment
Applications are invited from the prospective & eligible candidates for the vacant posts of **Professor, Associate Professor and Assistant Professor** in various departments on regular basis. Please visit university
website www.ctuap.ac.in for details
Last date for submission of hard copy : 02/09/2022 (18:00 hrs)
Last date to apply : 23/08/2022 (23:59 hrs)
Advt. No. CTUAP/Advt-T/2022/58, dt. 21/07/2022 — Officer (Admn)

CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF CLASSICAL TAMIL
Chennai-600100.
Advt-1
CALL FOR APPLICATION
The Director, Central Institute of Classical Tamil, Chennai Invites applications for the following positions on Deputation or Contract basis.

Sl. No.	Positions	No. of Post	Pay scale
01.	REGISTRAR	1	Level-12
02.	FINANCE OFFICER	1	Level -11

The Last date to receive the applications is within 30 days from the date of publication of the advertisement. The application will not be accepted after the last date. The filled applications are to be sent '**The Director, Central Institute of Classical Tamil, Chemmozhi Salai, Perumbakkam, Chennai – 600100**'.
For details, visit our website: **www.cict.in.**
24-07-2022 **DIRECTOR**

Government of Tamil Nadu
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
PROJECTS CIRCLE, CHENNAI-16.
TENDER NOTICE
Letter No.Tender Notice.04 / 2022-23 / SDO, Dated 21.07.2022
For and on behalf of Governor of Tamil Nadu, **Item Rate tender through online only** will be received **upto 30.08.2022, 15:00 Hours** by the **Superintending Engineer (H), Projects Circle, Chennai** for **Two Bridge Works** in respect of **Vellore (H) Projects Division** under **Railway Works Programme 2011-12.**
Details of Name of works, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available from **29.07.2022** Onwards in the Government website **https://tntenders.gov.in** If any changes / Corrections/ Amendments etc to the tender, it will be published on the above Government website only.
DIPR / 3509 / Tender / 2022
Superintending Engineer (H), Projects Circle, Chennai-16.

ANNA UNIVERSITY
CHENNAI - 600 025
CENTRE FOR RESEARCH
Admission to Ph.D. / M.S.(By Research) / (M.S.+Ph.D.) Programmes - January 2023 Session
Online Applications are invited for admission to **Ph.D. / M.S. (By Research) / (M.S. + Ph.D.) PROGRAMMES** for January 2023 session on or before **19.08.2022.**
For further details refer website **https://cfr.annauniv.edu**
- Candidates who have completed their Post Graduation and are awaiting final semester results can also apply.
- Applications from eligible candidates employed in Industries / Firms / Institutions are also invited.
- NRI/Foreign Nationals can also apply.
- Anna Research Fellowships are offered for meritorious full time scholars admitted in CEG, ACTECH, MIT and SAP campuses only. The Fellowship Amount is Rs.31,000+ 24% HRA
- The candidates have to submit the hard copy of applications before **26.08.2022.** Applications submitted after the due date will be rejected.

DIPR/749/Display/2022 — **REGISTRAR i/c**

Odisha State Medical Corporation Limited (OSMC)
In front of Ram Mandir, Convent Square, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar-751 001
Tel.:(0674) 2380808; Website: www.osmcl.nic.in, Email: proc.osmcl.od@nic.in
Assuring Quality, Saving Lives
Notification No.5257 / OSMCL / 2022 — Date : 22.07.2022
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER FOR SUPPLY, INSTALLATION & COMMISSIONING OF 128 SLICE CT SCAN MACHINE FOR DEPT. OF RADIO DIAGNOSIS OF SCB MCH-CUTTACK
Online Bids through **e-Tender portal (https://tendersodisha.gov.in)** are invited from eligible bidders for **supply, installation & commissioning of Equipment as per the particulars mentioned below :**

Sl.	Bid Reference No.	Item Name	Bid Document Cost inclusive of GST (Rs.)
1.	OSMCL/2022-23/CTScan_SCBMCH Cuttack/07	e-tender for Supply, Installation & Commissioning of 128 slice CT Scan Machine for Dept. of Radio diagnosis of SCBMCH-Cuttack	5,600/-

Sl. No.	Particulars	Date and time	
1.	Date & time of release of bid	22.07.2022, 5 PM	
2.	Date & time of Pre-bid meeting	29.07.2022, 11 AM Venue : Conference Hall, Odisha State Medical Corporation Ltd., Convent Square, Unit-III, Bhubaneswar	
3.	Date & time of Online bid submission	Start Date & Time 05.08.2022, 3 PM	End Date & Time 19.08.2022, 5 PM
4.	Date & time of online Technical Bid Opening	22.08.2022, 3 PM	
5.	Date of opening of Price Bid	To be informed to the qualified bidders	

The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, Prequalification criteria and terms & conditions are available in the websites: **www.osmcl.nic.in** and **https://tendersodisha.gov.in** . Authority reserves the right to accept / reject any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.
CAD-1224
sd/- Managing Director, OSMC Ltd., Odisha
OPR-10112/11/0026/2223

विद्युत प्रशिक्षण बोर्ड (दक्षिणी क्षेत्र)
BOARD OF APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING (SOUTHERN REGION)
(शिक्षा मंत्रालय का स्वायत्त निकाय, उच्चतर शिक्षा विभाग, भारत सरकार)
(An Autonomous Body under Ministry of Education, Department of Higher Education, Government of India)
चौथी गली, सी.आई.टी. अड्डा, तरमणि, चेन्नई-600 113
4th Cross Street, C.I.T. Campus, Taramani, Chennai-600 113.
दूरभाष / Ph: 044-2254 1292 / 2254 2236 / 22542703
APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR THE POST OF DIRECTOR OF TRAINING (UR-01)
Board of Apprenticeship Training (SR) herein after referred to as "BOAT (SR)" is an autonomous organization, under the Ministry of Education, Department of Higher Education, Government of India. BOAT (SR) is implementing the National Apprenticeship Training Scheme under the Apprentices Act (Amended in 1973 and 2014) for providing Apprenticeship training to Graduate / Diploma holders in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and union territories of Puducherry & Lakshadweep.

Name and classification of post	Director of Training (Unreserved) GROUP 'A'
Number of vacancy	01
Pay Scale as per 7th CPC	Level-12, with entry pay of Rs.78800/-
Age Limit	Maximum 45 years

For full details regarding Qualifications, Age, Experience, Job description, Roles and Responsibilities, Terms and conditions and other instructions, please visit our website: **www.boat-srp.com**, under news and events section, in home page.
Application Format can be downloaded from the above website. Duly filled application satisfying all terms and conditions along with application fee of Rs.500/- by crossed Demand Draft in favour of "Board of Apprenticeship Training (SR), Chennai", shall be sent to the address mentioned therein on or before 22nd August, 2022.
CHAIRMAN

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No : 33,34,35/SE/PHC/ TSR/2022-23 Jal Jeevan Mission - 2021-22 - Augmentation of PRWSS Providing FHTCs in Kadavallur, Kattakambal and Vadakkekad Panchayath (Phase III), **EMD :** Rs. 500000, **Tender fee : Rs. 17700/-, Last Date for submitting Tender : 10-08-2022, 03:00:pm,** Phone : 04872423230, Website : **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
Superintending Engineer
PH Circle
KWA-JB-GL-6-588-2022-23 — Thrissur

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No.: **36 & 39/22-23/SE/PHC/PKD.** (1) KIFB 2017-18 Vandazhi, Kizhakkenchery, Vadakkenchery and Kannambra comprehensive fresh water distribution project Phase II in Palakkad district (2) JJM, State Plan - 21-22 - CWSS to Chalavara, Ananganadi, Thrikkadeeri Pts. Construction of 22 MLD WTP with Lamella Clarifier, 12LL OHSR, 5LL GLSR and 21LL OHSR, Intake well, Supplying and laying RWPM, CWPM, Pumpset Transformer - Construction of 27LL OHSR, CW Pumpset, Distribution system and road restoration. EMD: **₹5,00,000** each. Tender fee: **₹15,000 + 2,700** GST.
Last Date for submitting Tender: **16-08-2022, 03:00 pm** Phone: **0491 2544927.**
Website: **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
KWA-JB-GL-6-594-2022-23 — **Superintending Engineer,** PH Circle, Palakkad

Government of Kerala
IMPACT Kerala Ltd, Thiruvananthapuram
Phone: 0471- 4019877
National Competitive Bidding (E-Tender) Re-tender Notice
E-Tenders are invited from eligible bidders for the **"Design, Engineering, Procurement, Construction, Erection, Commissioning and O&M for a period of 10 years after successful commissioning, of Construction of 1.5 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant with Associated Sewerage Network at Ottappalam Municipality".**
Date of publishing of Tender - **25/07/2022**
Date of submission of Tender - **27/08/2022**
Date of opening of Bids - **31/08/2022**
Detailed information on the same can be obtained from the Office of IMPACT Kerala Ltd. and in the website
https://impactkerala.lsgkerala.gov.in and **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in**
Sd/- **Managing Director**

Spa owners move HC against police

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Association of Spa Owners moved the Bombay High Court on Saturday, challenging unlawful searches, targeting and moral policing of spa centres and massage parlours by police authorities without cause, jurisdiction and sanction of law.

Filing the petition, advocate Shashwat Anand said the police were acting based on frivolous complaints by unscrupulous persons who try to extort money from spa owners.

The persons making false complaints and involved in the searches were always those who demanded exorbitant sums as *hafta*. If the same were not paid, the business owners were threatened of being subjected to bogus searches and maligned as prostitution centres, the petition read.

The plea also challenged frivolous cases slapped on the women working at these places under the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, citing the stigma they face.

Scientists flay GST hike on lab equipment

Move will have a significant impact on budget, they say

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

Several scientists have expressed displeasure with the Centre's recent decision to increase Goods and Services Tax (GST) rates on scientific equipment. On July 18, the 47th GST Council meeting in Chandigarh approved changes to rates on a host of goods and services. Tucked in was a decision to do away with concessional GST rate of 5% applicable to scientific equipment and increasing it to "applicable rates" meaning anywhere between 12% and 18%.

This would mean a 6%-12% hit on research funds available to laboratories for their expenditure, said scientists.

"This would have a significant impact on our budget. Already our budgets have been slashed and this would be an additional blow. This has come as a surprise...and we hope the government will rethink this," Satyajit Mayor, Director, National Centre for Biological Sciences, told *The Hindu*.

Scientists feel that the GST hike on scientific equipment will affect research funds.

N. Raghuram, Professor, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, said: "This is bad, especially at a time when government funding for S&T has been falling over the years in real terms of purchasing power and money available for research beyond salaries is falling even more."

"I request all funding agencies to request @PMOIndia to withdraw this ruling otherwise science will suffer... This ruling will affect us all," tweeted Amit Tuli, scientist at the CSIR-Institute of Microbial Technology.

Amitabha Bandopadhya of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, tweeted that grants that were sanctioned to research groups would now be insufficient to procure equipment and consumables and therefore funding agencies should top up their fund releases by 13% to buffer the impact.

The Union Ministry of Science and Technology was earmarked ₹14,217 crore in the 2022-23 Union Budget – a drop of 3.9% from last year.

In April 2021, scientists from labs all over the country had signed a petition and written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, pointing out that the "Atmanirbhar Bharat" policy had made import of scientific equipment and reagents an "extremely tedious and time-consuming process" requiring approval at the level of the Secretaries of Ministries or departments.

Any country can use CoWIN free

MoU signed with Guyana; app to be repurposed for other healthcare uses: CEO

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

Any country interested can avail itself of the CoWIN platform free of cost, R.S. Sharma, Chief Executive Officer of the National Health Authority, said.

"Selected vendors by the country will be trained on CoWIN technology to customise it for their requirement. Usually, since the vaccination cycle is almost the same in all countries, the customisation will be limited to changes in field and master data configuration. Complete revamp of the application by any country is not expected," he told *The Hindu* on Saturday while speaking about CoWIN, which provides digital support for the COVID vaccination drive in the country.

MoU signed

Dr. Sharma said India had signed a memorandum of understanding with Guyana for sharing CoWIN. "We are in advanced talks with a couple of other nations to share CoWIN with them," he said.

India crossed a milestone of administering 2 billion vaccine doses a week ago.

Click of a button: A file photo of a healthcare worker registering the name of a beneficiary on the CoWIN app.

Talking about the app's continued importance, Dr. Sharma said that as CoWIN was repurposed, it could also help achieve the vision of Universal Vaccination against COVID-19 and further be repurposed for use in the healthcare sector.

On July 5, 2021, the Central government organised the CoWIN Global Conclave with the endeavour to share experiences and expertise on the CoWIN platform with the global community.

Over 140 countries participated in the event and nearly a dozen expressed interest in learning from the platform and were considering adopting it.

Stating that CoWIN has also become the world's biggest digitally verifiable vaccination certificate generating platform, Dr. Sharma said that today, the app was highly configurable and adaptable.

"It has evolved based on the changing policy landscape and the requirements of the beneficiaries. The platform was developed at a record speed with ample consideration to its scalability, modularity and interoperability," he said.

Security measures

The CEO also spoke about the security measures that have been put in place to ensure data safety and the prevention of leaks.

"CoWIN platform does not store or share any personal data. It is for vaccination purposes and is the single source of truth to determine whether the person has been vaccinated or not," he said. He added the platform had deployed state-of-the-art data security systems to safeguard user data against any possible intrusion.

"Despite all these security features, CoWIN's architecture still allows it to be open and interoperable. The capability to digitally authenticate these details with Aadhaar has also been provided to vaccinators. Otherwise, during vaccination a vaccinator could validate these details through a physical ID," he explained.

He added that besides the OTP feature, the government has limited the number of slot searches per user (restricted to 15-20) on the portal which prevents bots, browser extensions or hack attempts. Also even the API's shared to third parties by CoWIN is through a thorough scrutiny process, ensuring proper security and audit.

Farm budget helps Rajasthan farmers

Chief Minister reviews progress

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
JAIPUR

The measures being taken under the first-ever agriculture budget presented in Rajasthan this year have helped out the farmers with a mission mode adopted for 11 thematic areas. The small and marginal farmers have benefited from subsidies for solar pumps and farm ponds, while drip irrigation has been promoted as a long-term solution in the arid regions.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot had presented the agriculture budget for 2022-23 in the Assembly in February this year with the expectation to gain the support of farmers discontented with the Centre's agricultural policies and consolidate their support for his government. A provision of ₹5,000 crore for Krishak Sathi Yojana was made in the budget.

Reviewing the progress of budgetary actions, Mr. Gehlot said all the announcements would be implemented to extend the benefits to farmers with the emphasis on innovations for the cultivators. The budget has especially promoted drip and sprinkler irrigation systems in view of a scarcity of water in the State.

The schemes for small and marginal farmers were being publicised to extend the benefits to the targeted groups, Mr. Gehlot said. Drip irrigation was being promoted for the arid regions with a provision of ₹1,750 crore for four lakh farmers, while an approval has been issued for providing drip irrigation equipment to 1.6 lakh farmers for use in two lakh hectares under the State micro-irrigation mission. Besides, a subsidy of ₹61.58 crore has been given for solar pumps.

The Chief Minister said 1,000 drones would be purchased at a cost of ₹40 crore for distribution to the village cooperative societies and farmer producer organisations for spraying of pesticides in a safe and effective manner.

Seeds of improved varieties were also being distributed to the marginal farmers, while 76% of the crop sowing work has been completed during the current monsoon season.

Chief Secretary Usha Sharma has given instructions for preparing a digital database of all farmers in the State to enable them to get crop loans and various subsidies and make crop insurance claims without hassles.

The digital linkage will also facilitate prompt issuance of advisories related to agriculture.

Step by step

Effective farming: Paddy seedlings planted in terrace fields in Jowai, Meghalaya, on Saturday. Terraced fields, which prevent soil erosion, are traditionally laid on slopes, covering the area with flattened steps to grow crops. • RITU RAJ KONWAR

Annul new rules for disabled, DGCA told

'It is an insult to such air travellers'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The revised rules of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation for disabled air passengers that required a doctor's opinion to permit them to fly is an "insult to injury" as it conflated disability and ill-health, and must be rolled back, disability rights groups said on Saturday.

The regulator on Friday amended its Civil Aviation Requirement (CAR) on Carriage by Air – Persons with Disability. While the rule said that disability cannot be a ground for denying boarding to a passenger, it stated that if the airline perceives that a passenger's health can deteriorate during a flight, it must seek a doctor's opinion on whether such a person is fit to fly or not.

"The DGCA's rule penalises those who are atypical in appearance, communication or behavioural expression by requiring additional screening by the average lay person or medical professional who has not been exposed or sensitised to disability or even diversity of the human experience," said the Freedom of Movement Coalition (FMC), a pan-India group advocating for equity in transport.

The amendment is inappropriate in its conflation of ill-health and disability, and a fitness certificate discriminates and targeted people with disability, when no such requirement was being imposed on the general population, it said.

Rajiv Rajan, Executive Director of Ektha, said the revised rules underlined the lack of trust towards disabled people.

Books on ex-Presidents, Kovind to be out today

Less formal aspects to be highlighted

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Books highlighting some of the rarest photographs of President Ram Nath Kovind and former Presidents will be released during a function at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Sunday, an official said on Saturday.

Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur will release three books.

Mr. Kovind, President-elect Droupadi Murmu, Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be present, the official said.

Visual history

Moods, Moments and Memories is a visual history of former Presidents from 1950 to 2017, and *The First Citizen* has pictorial record of President Kovind's term, he said.

Interpreting Geometries - Flooring of Rashtrapati Bhavan is a unique repository of flooring patterns designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens for the abode of the Viceroy of India in 1912 (a project that lasted until 1929).

Mr. Kovind, who was sworn in as the 14th President of India on July 25, 2017, completes his five-year term on Sunday. Droupadi Murmu will be sworn in as the 15th President on Monday.

President Kovind, in his efforts to further open up the Rashtrapati Bhavan to the people of India, wishes to share the visual history of the building with them, and the publication *Moods, Moments and Memories...* is a part of that mission, the official said.

"The photo archive offers such glimpses of the former presidents that make them more human, and enrich their portrayal in the nation's collective memory; these are chapters in a pictorial history, capturing myriad moods, moments and memories of the presidency," reads the introduction of the book.

The images bring out less-known aspects of the Presidential persona that take a back seat on ceremonial occasions, it said.

Informal facets

"When we think of past Presidents, images that come to mind are from ceremonial functions. That is of course the most important facet of their role, but there are bound to be other facets, for example, spending quality time with family, playing golf or reading in the library. Thus came the idea of exploring the less formal aspects of our former Presidents," said the Delhi-based journalist Ashish Upendra Mehta, who did research and photo selection for the books.

SP breaks ties with Shivpal, Rajbhar

Party sends out official communication even as leaders court interest of rivals

ANUJ KUMAR
GHAZIABAD

The Samajwadi Party on Saturday ended a long cold war, officially informing Shivpal Yadav of the Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (Lohiya) and Om Prakash Rajbhar of the Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP) that they are free to break the alliance with the party.

Soon after separate letters to them by the SP became public, Mr. Rajbhar held a press conference and welcomed the snapping of ties. He accused SP president Akhilesh Yadav of betraying the backward communities. "Akhilesh gave us *talaq*, we accept the divorce. *Talaq kabool hai*," he said.

The SBSP fought the Assembly election earlier this year in alliance with the SP and won six seats in eastern Uttar Pradesh.

Claiming that Mr. Yadav only listened to a coterie of leaders who had no grassroots presence, the OBC leader said his advice to give more seats in the Assembly election to candidates of the backward castes was ignored. So was his suggestion to give ticket to somebody from the most backward castes ahead of the Azamgarh Lok Sabha byelection.

"I sought more ticket for Kashyap, Pal and Prajapati communities; he did not listen to me. When the Yadav-Muslim formula was not working, it was time to look beyond. But he gave ticket to a Yadav," he said, referring to Mr. Yadav's cousin and SP candidate, Dharmendra Yadav.

On his own: Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Saturday made the break with his allies official. • FILE PHOTO

Mr. Shivpal, on the other hand, said he had always been free, but thanked the party for releasing an official letter formally setting him free.

"In the political journey, compromise with principles and honour is unacceptable," he said.

The letter to Mr. Shivpal, the younger brother of party patriarch Mulayam Singh, addressed him as *mannniya* (honourable); no such term of respect was used in Mr. Rajbhar's letter.

While the letter to Mr. Shivpal made no mention of his growing closeness with the BJP after the Assembly election, especially during the recent Presidential election when he urged representatives to vote for NDA candidate Droupadi Murmu, the note to Mr. Rajbhar was not quiet on the subject. The SP was fighting the BJP, while Mr. Rajbhar was strengthening the ruling party with his "nexus with the BJP", it said.

Mr. Rajbhar addressed this allegation at the press conference, declaring that he was not a slave and was free to meet anybody.

Referring to a meeting between Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Mr. Mulayam in the presence of Mr. Akhilesh, he said, "If they meet, it's okay. When I do, my motives are questioned."

Though Mr. Rajbhar has not revealed his cards yet, SP sources indicated that he was on the way to embracing the BJP again. "Providing him with the Y-category security was the first step in the direction," said a senior party leader from Azamgarh. Mr. Rajbhar started his political career with the BSP before shifting allegiance to the BJP.

On the snapping of alliances, BJP spokesperson Rakesh Tripathi took a dig at Mr. Akhilesh. "The SP has had a history of ditching alliance partners. Somebody who could not be true to his father, how could he be expected to understand the concerns of the alliance partners," he said.

Alliance made untenable

Though Mr. Rajbhar played a role in the SP's performance in eastern Uttar Pradesh, party sources said the relationship had become untenable because of the comments he had been making. The way senior party leader Azam Khan had taken on Mr. Rajbhar over the past few days had helped the party in making a strong decision.

Recently, asked to comment on Mr. Rajbhar's jibe at Mr. Akhilesh for not coming out of air-conditioned rooms, Mr. Khan said, "We haven't seen Mr. Rajbhar standing in sunlight either." He said criticism was fine but one should not cross the line of decency so much so that the chances of sitting together again become impossible.

SUDOKU

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2							3	
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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

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Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

4	2	8	1	6	9	3	5	7
6	1	9	3	7	5	4	8	2
7	5	3	4	2	8	6	1	9
5	8	4	2	1	7	9	3	6
9	3	2	6	5	4	1	7	8
1	6	7	8	9	3	5	2	4
3	4	6	5	8	2	7	9	1
2	9	5	7	4	1	8	6	3
8	7	1	9	3	6	2	4	5

After grain deal, Russia hits Ukraine port

This shows no matter what Moscow says and promises, it will find ways not to implement it: Zelensky

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KYIV

Russian missiles hit Ukraine's port of Odesa on Saturday, in what Kyiv called a "spit in the face" of a day-old deal between the warring sides to resume cereal exports blocked by the conflict.

The Ukrainian military said its air defences had shot down two cruise missiles but two more hit the port, threatening the landmark agreement hammered out after months of negotiations aimed at averting a global food crisis.

The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry spokesman, Oleg Nikolenko, said the strike was "a spit in the face" by Russian leader Vladimir Putin against the deal brokered by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and UN chief Antonio Guterres.

Escalating tensions: A grain terminal in the port of Odesa following Russian missile strikes on Saturday. • REUTERS

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky claimed the strikes on Odesa showed Moscow cannot keep its promises.

"This proves only one thing: no matter what Russia says and promises, it will find ways not to implement it," he said during a meeting with U.S. lawmakers, according to an official statement.

Odesa is one of three export hubs designated in the agreement and Ukrainian officials said grain was being stored in the port at the time of the strike although the food stocks did not appear to have been hit.

The deal includes points on running Ukrainian grain ships along safe corridors that avoid known mines in the Black Sea.

UN, EU slam attack

Mr. Guterres – who presided over the signing ceremony on Friday – "unequivocally" condemned the attack, his deputy spokesman said, and urged all sides stick to the deal.

"These products are desperately needed to address the global food crisis and ease the suffering of millions of people in need around the globe," he said.

The EU's foreign policy chief Josep Borrell directly blamed Russia for the strikes.

"Striking a target crucial for grain export a day after the signature of (the) Istanbul agreements is particularly reprehensible and again demonstrates Russia's total disregard for international law and commitments," he said.

There was no official comment from Moscow but Turkish Defence Minister Hulusi Akar said Russia had denied carrying out the attack.

Huge quantities of wheat and other grain have been blocked in Ukrainian ports by Russian warships and the mines Kyiv laid to avert a feared amphibious assault.

Mr. Zelensky said that around 20 million tonnes of produce from last year's harvest and the current crop would be exported under the agreement, estimating the value of Ukraine's grain stocks at around $10 billion.

WHO classifies monkeypox as 'public health emergency'

Outbreak has affected over 14,500 people in 72 countries

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

The World Health Organization has declared the global monkeypox outbreak a "public health emergency of international concern' (PHEIC), one step below that of a 'pandemic'. The monkeypox outbreak has affected more than 14,500 people in 72 countries.

Rising risk: People waiting in line to recieve the monkeypox vaccine in Brooklyn, New York, on July 17. • AFP

According to the WHO, a PHEIC represents "an extraordinary event, which constitutes a public health risk to other States through international spread, and which potentially requires a coordinated international response".

On January 30, 2020, the organisation had categorised COVID-19 as a PHEIC, after about 7,500 cases of novel coronavirus were reported. On March 11 that year, the agency elevated it to 'pandemic'.

The latest move followed a seven-hour meeting on Thursday of the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee to discuss the monkeypox outbreak. It is this committee of the WHO that decides on the seriousness of a public health crisis.

Though the Committee did not reach a consensus on whether the outbreak constituted a PHEIC, Director General, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, decided that the situation merited such a classification.

"We have an outbreak that has spread around the world rapidly, through new modes of transmission, about which we understand too little, and which meets the criteria in the International Health Regulations. For all of these reasons, I have decided that the global monkeypox outbreak represents a public health emergency of international concern," he stated.

The WHO has been criticised in the past for not recognising the incipient threat from COVID-19 soon enough.

Guidelines to follow

As part of the PHEIC declaration, which is said to be "temporary" and reviewed every three months, countries are expected to follow guidelines. They are grouped in three categories: Those with no reported cases or where the last case was from 21 days ago; those with recently imported cases and experiencing human-to-human transmission and finally, countries where cases are being reported and have a history of the presence of the virus. The guidelines direct countries to step up surveillance, spread awareness, and ensure that at-risk groups are not stigmatised.

Indian officials are yet to comment on the WHO's classification. So far three cases have been confirmed in India – all in men, and in Kerala, with a history of travel to the United Arab Emirates. All three are hospitalised and reportedly "stable", according to health officials.

The WHO said that so far 14,533 probable and laboratory-confirmed cases (including 3 deaths in Nigeria and 2 in the Central African Republic) have been reported from 72 countries across six WHO regions; up from 3,040 cases in 47 countries in early May.

The highest numbers of cases are currently reported from countries in the European region and the Americas.

The majority of reported cases of monkeypox currently are in men, and most of these cases occur among men who identified themselves as gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (MSM), in urban areas, and are clustered in social and sexual networks. Early reports of children affected include a few with no known epidemiological link to other cases, the WHO stated.

The Secretariat noted that, although the number of cases and countries experiencing outbreaks of monkeypox appear to be rising, the WHO's risk assessment has not changed since the first meeting of the Committee on June 23, and the risk is considered to be "moderate" at global level and in all six WHO Regions, except for European region, where it is considered to be "high."

Other countries can join CPEC for mutual benefits: China, Pak.

Both sides reviewed its expansion to priority areas

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan and China have decided to welcome "interested" third countries to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), saying it was "an open and inclusive platform" for mutually beneficial cooperation.

Launched in 2013, the CPEC is a corridor linking Pakistan's Gwadar port on the Arabian Sea with Kashgar in northwest China's Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region.

The third meeting of the CPEC Joint Working Group (JWG) on International Cooperation and Coordination (JWG-ICC) was held here on Friday.

During the meeting, co-chaired by Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood and China's Assistant Foreign Minister Wu Jianghao, both sides reviewed the continued implementation of the CPEC and its expansion to the jointly agreed priority areas, according to a statement by the Foreign Office here.

It was noted that as a flagship of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the CPEC had broken new ground in strengthening international and regional connectivity, especially in the context of its extension to Afghanistan.

"As an open and inclusive platform, both sides welcomed interested third parties to benefit from avenues for mutually beneficial cooperation opened up by CPEC," according to the Foreign Office.

India has repeatedly protested against the CPEC as it passes through the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

The $60 billion flagship project of the Chinese government is promoted by President Xi Jinping.

Many Western think tanks and commentators have termed the CPEC an economic debt trap.

Pak. PM's son Hamza takes oath as Punjab CM

Opposition lawmakers protest move

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LAHORE

Hamza Shehbaz, the son of Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, on Saturday took oath as the Chief Minister of Punjab province, a day after he was re-elected to the post by just three votes after the Deputy Speaker rejected 10 crucial votes of his rival candidate.

The run-off election for the post of Punjab Chief Minister was held in the Punjab Assembly on Friday.

Mr. Hamza was declared the winner though his Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) did not have a majority in the Assembly after July 17 by-polls.

Deputy Speaker Dost Muhammad Mazari rejected 10 votes of Mr. Hamza's rival candidate Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi's party Pakistan Muslim League-Q (PML-Q), an ally of ousted PM Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), citing Article 63-A of the Constitution.

Mr. Mazari said that he rejected the votes based on a letter from PML-Q chief Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain, urging his party's lawmakers to vote against PTI-PML-Q candidate.

In the 368-member Assembly, Mr. Hamza's PML-N got 179 votes, while Mr. Elahi's party garnered 176 votes. The PTI-PMLQ lawmakers protested the ruling of the Deputy Speaker.

Bannon found guilty of contempt of Congress

He did not appear on summons date

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
WASHINGTON

A federal jury found Donald Trump's former adviser Steve Bannon guilty of contempt of Congress on Friday for defying a subpoena to testify before lawmakers investigating the assault on the U.S. Capitol.

Mr. Bannon, who led the former President's 2016 presidential election campaign, was among hundreds of people called by a House of Representatives committee to address the storming of Congress by Mr. Trump supporters on January 6, 2021.

The 68-year-old Republican strategist did not appear on the summons date or provide requested documents, and was indicted on two charges of contempt of Congress.

The 12-person jury deliberated for less than three hours before finding Mr. Bannon guilty of both misdemeanor charges.

Steve Bannon

Mr. Bannon, who served as Mr. Trump's strategy chief at the White House before being sacked in 2017, faces a minimum of 30 days in jail and a maximum sentence of a year for each count. Sentencing was set for October 21.

"We may have lost the battle here today but we're not going to lose this war," Bannon said after the verdict. "I stand with Trump and the Constitution."

Later, in an interview with Fox News, he said there would be "a long appeals process" ahead.

Trump, Pence campaign for rivals in Arizona

Robson, Lake in race for Governor's job

ASSOCIATED PRESS
PEORIA

Former President Donald Trump and his estranged Vice-President, Mike Pence, held rival campaign events in Arizona on Friday, turning the Governor's race into a broader referendum on the Republican Party's future.

Mr. Trump and Mr. Pence both talked up the successes of their administration and hammered President Joe Biden, but neither directly addressed the other or the growing rift between them.

Mr. Pence, who this week added his name to a growing list of GOP establishment figures endorsing housing developer Karrin Taylor Robson, offered only an oblique critique of the Republicans still pushing the lie that Mr. Trump lost because of fraud.

If you elect Ms. Robson, Mr. Pence said, "you can send a deafening message heard all across America that the Republican Party is the party of the future."

He was more direct later on Twitter: "Some people want this election to be about the past, but elections are always about the future. Democrats would love nothing more than for Republicans to take our eye off the ball and focus on days gone by."

Ms. Robson is a lawyer and housing developer who is seeking support from mainstream GOP figures eager to break away from Mr. Trump.

Her main rival, former television anchor Kari Lake, has embraced Mr. Trump's election lies along with his combative approach to his political enemies and the media.

"No one understands better than Kari how to fight back against the fake news media and the radical left," Mr. Trump said.

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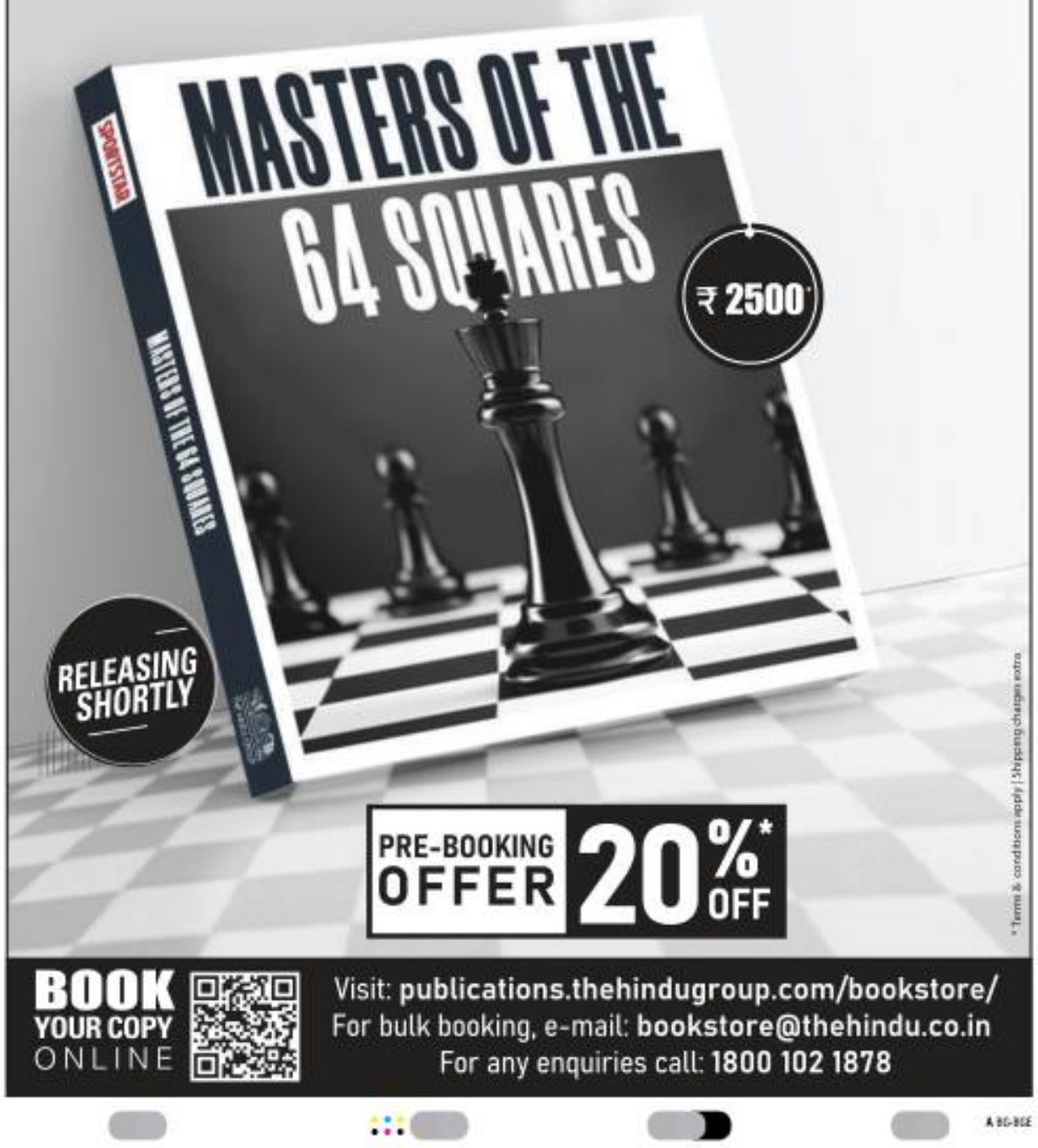

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ELSEWHERE

Google fires engineer for sentient chatbot claims

Alphabet Inc's Google said on Friday it has dismissed a senior software engineer who claimed the company's artificial intelligence (AI) chatbot LaMDA was a self-aware person. Google, which placed Blake Lemoine on leave last month, said he had violated company policies and that it found his claims to be "unfounded." "It's regrettable that despite lengthy engagement on this topic, Blake still chose to persistently violate employment and data security policies that include the need to safeguard product information," the firm said. REUTERS

Flash floods kill at least 22 people in southern Iran

'Those on the riverbed were caught as water level rose'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TEHRAN

Flooding in southern Iran has killed at least 22 people and left one person missing following heavy rainfall, a local official said on Saturday.

Iran has endured repeated droughts over the past decade, but also regular floods, a phenomenon made worse when torrential rain falls on sun-baked earth.

Videos posted on local and social media showed vehicles being carried away by the rising waters of the Roudbal river in the southern province of Fars. One video showed adults pulling a child from a car as it began to shift downstream.

A rescue helicopter positioned on a river bank in Estahban county. • AFP

"The number of people killed has risen to 22 after another body was found," Javad Moradian, who heads a local rescue unit, told Mehr news agency.

The Governor of Estahban, Yousef Kargar, said "around 5 p.m. yesterday, heavy rains... in the central parts of Estahban County led to flooding", according to state news agency IRNA.

The incident happened 174 km east of the provincial capital Shiraz on a summer weekend, when families tend to head to cooler areas such as rivers, lakes and valleys.

"A number of local people and sightseers (from other areas) who had gone to the riverside and were present in the river bed were caught in the flood due to the rise in the water level," Mr. Kargar added.

SNAPSHOTS

Warm-blooded
Fossilised inner-ear canals suggest that the moment mammals evolved to be warm-blooded occurred around 230-200 million years ago. Researchers hypothesised that hotter, more active bodies would have less viscous fluid in their vestibular system, which maintains balance and spatial orientation — and the inner ear's shape would adapt in turn.

Natural protection
Data from Qatar suggest that natural immunity induced by infection with SARS-CoV-2 provides a strong shield against reinfection by a pre-Omicron variant for 16 months or longer. This protection against catching the virus dwindles over time, but the immunity triggered protects against severe disease, and this safeguard shows no signs of waning.

No shock absorbers
Woodpeckers regularly smack their heads into trees at a rate of 20 times per second, seemingly without doing damage to their brains. Researchers have long thought the birds were somehow cushioning these blows to their brains. They found that woodpecker heads moved just as fast as their beaks, and they don't use shock absorption.

Bird puzzle
Hoatzins present an evolutionary enigma — one analysis of their DNA suggests that the birds' closest relatives are cranes and shorebirds, and another found them to be related to a group that includes tiny, hovering birds, such as hummingbirds. This is forcing biologists to consider whether to rethink the shape of the standard 'tree of life' for modern birds.

Wastewater surveillance reveals infection dynamics

SARS-CoV-2 viral load estimated higher number of cases than the actual number of reported cases 8-14 days in advance

FARAH ISHTIAQ

Wastewater or sewage can tell us volumes about the health of a community. The idea here is very simple – most pathogens of interest, e.g., bacteria, virus or protozoa remain viable in the sewage environment for days.

Wastewater-based health surveillance or environmental surveillance is an excellent tool for tracking the presence of different pathogens in the environment. All it needs is a regular and consistent testing of wastewater. It is quite economical and provides real-time data, which makes it very useful for developing countries such as India where not everyone has access to healthcare.

Underestimation of cases

In India, tracking of COVID-19 pandemic relies heavily on testing symptomatic individuals for the presence of SARS-CoV-2 RNA and counting the positive tests over time. With high population density, many infected persons are likely to be asymptomatic or oligosymptomatic (few symptoms). They are generally not tested, leading to underestimation of COVID-19 cases.

Furthermore, infected or asymptomatic individuals start to shed the virus via the faecal route four-seven days in advance of actual testing or symptoms showing up, which means the increase in viral load in sewage water ahead of reported cases works as an early warning system and complements the routine diagnostic surveillance by capturing near real-time virus circulation at the community level.

Using this conceptual background, the Tata Institute for Genetics and Society (TIGS) in collaboration with Biome Environmental Trust and National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), led a longitudinal study (January-June 2022) across 28 Bangalore sewer-shed sites capturing data from more than 11 million people.

The study posted as a preprint in the medRxiv server (preprints are yet to be peer-reviewed) investigated the relationship between SARS-CoV-2 concentrations in wastewater and COVID-19 cases reported on a daily basis. Each sewer-shed site/sewage treatment plant has a specific catchment area i.e., wards served by the treatment plant. By normalising the viral load for population size of that catchment, water inflow etc, we could estimate the number of infected individuals in that catchment area which was estimated to be higher than the reported cases in the city.

We were able to detect viral load copies in sewage in areas where there were few or no reported cases. Using exponentially weighted moving average (EWMA) algorithm (four days and seven days – after adjusting for Omicron and old SARS-CoV-2 lineage incubation period), we observed two major outbreaks in January and June 2022. The viral load estimated a higher number of cases than the number of reported cases 8-14 days in advance at the city-wide level. This further suggests that the viral load pattern mirrored with the clinical data, and COVID-19 positive cases appeared to remain underreported in the city.

This study on Bangalore sewage network has been instrumental in developing an early warning system where real-time genomic surveillance is the backbone in understanding the variants causing the emerging patterns in viral load in wastewater.

Hotspot identification

We monitored viral load and simultaneously sequenced samples in real-time to show which variant(s) was causing the increase in cases – not every treatment plant showed high viral loads but this helped in identification of hotspots in the city.

Treatment plants with BA.2.10 or mixture of BA.2 sub lineages showed an increase in viral load and this further highlighted that there was no new variant behind the surge, even though BA.4 and BA.5 was seen in minuscule amounts in few plants. Unlike clinical samples, our study used a specialised method designed to capture the abundance and diversity of lineages in mixed community wastewater samples.

Our comparisons with clinical genomic surveillance data from Bangalore (about 13,000 genomes) on GISAID database showed that while the general trend in Variants of Concern (VOC) remained similar, the wastewater genomic surveillance (about 300 samples) recorded a huge diversity in SARS-CoV-2 lineages dominated by the Omicron family.

Specifically, two Omicron sub-lineages – BA.2.10.1 and BA.2.12 – were detected two months prior (January 2022) in wastewater to the first detection in clinical samples in March 2022.

The early emergence of a variant in the wastewater implies that a significant proportion of individuals in the community are infected with that variant and shedding the virus, whereas a late detection in the clinical sample could happen due to limited or biased testing, sequencing or a large proportion of individuals were asymptomatic or home testing upon COVID-19 symptoms. This further suggests that clinical samples were sequenced from a selected hospital, which is not representative of the Bangalore population.

One of the most important aspect of this study is its open access dashboard (in partnership with Precision Health Pandemic Response-Bangalore initiative) for reporting viral load, citywide positivity rates and a regular discussion with Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) so that the information can be used for making policy decisions.

Poliovirus eradication

Wastewater surveillance played a crucial role in eradication of poliovirus in India in 2012. What we need now is to scale-up the environmental surveillance beyond poliovirus and SARS-CoV-2 virus to pan pathogen surveillance and integrate with the main healthcare system. Such surveillance has the power to predict neglected and emerging diseases.

Our approach and protocols developed lend support to establishing environmental surveillance for monitoring and an early-warning system for detecting multi-pathogens (e.g., dengue, avian influenza, influenza, hepatitis, cholera) – as an evidence-based approach it is very useful for predicting risks to human as well as animal health. And that is exactly what we need more than ever – a One Health approach – to recognise the connection between the health of humans, animals and the environment.

(Farah Ishtiaq is a Principal Scientist at the Tata Institute for Genetics and Society, Bengaluru.)

Why environmental surveillance serves as an early-warning system

Testing sewage samples provides a clearer picture of virus circulation in the community days in advance of testing infected people

The study monitored viral load and simultaneously sequenced samples in real-time to know which variant was causing an increase in cases

- Tracking of the COVID-19 pandemic relies heavily on testing symptomatic individuals for the presence of SARS-CoV-2 RNA
- Many infected people are likely to be asymptomatic and are not tested. This leads to underestimation of COVID-19 cases
- All infected people – symptomatic or asymptomatic – start shedding the virus via the faecal route four-seven days before symptoms show up or actual testing
- The viral load estimated a higher number of cases than the number of reported cases 8-14 days in advance at the citywide level. Environmental surveillance captured near real-time virus circulation at the community level
- The study was able to detect viral load copies in sewage in areas where there were few or no reported cases
- The study used real-time genomic surveillance to understand the variants causing the emerging patterns in viral load in wastewater
- Two Omicron sub-lineages – BA.2.10.1 and BA.2.12 – were detected in wastewater in January 2022 before being detected in clinical samples in March 2022

Rise and fall of cholera-causing bacteria lineage

Researchers identify the decline of antimicrobial resistance in O139 as a key determining factor in its downfall

SHUBASHREE DESIKAN

Cholera is a life-threatening infectious disease and a public health hazard. It is caused by a comma-shaped bacterium known as *Vibrio cholerae*.

More than two hundred serogroups of this bacterium are known, of which only O1 and O139 are known to cause such infection that leads to epidemics and pandemics. Most of the serogroups only cause mild cholera-like diarrhea and food-associated outbreaks.

Of these two serogroups, O1 was responsible for seven pandemic waves, only to be temporarily displaced by O139. This emerged late and came up around 1992. It was first spotted in Chennai (then Madras).

It was anticipated that this would cause the eighth round of pandemic but it subsided as mysteriously as it had originated.

Genomic changes

A group of researchers, including from India and the U.K., have studied the genome of O139 and traced the reason for its dying down after taking over from O1. They trace it to two key genomic evolutionary changes that took place in O139, the first related to the type of cholera toxin it produced and the second related to a loss of antimicrobial resistance.

This research has been published in *Nature Communications*.

Clinical isolates of *V. cholerae* O139 serogroup collected between 1993 and 2015 from several parts of India at the ICMR-National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases, Kolkata and other Asian regions were included in the study.

Lost out: O139 lost its competitive advantage due to reduction in the AMR capacity. • RAMAKRISHNA G

The *V. cholerae* DNA were sequenced at the Wellcome Sanger Institute, U.K. and analysed at the Cambridge Institute of Therapeutic Immunology and Infectious Diseases, U.K. and Translational Health Science and Technology Institute, Faridabad, India.

A total of 330 *V. cholerae* O139 isolates were included in this study. In addition, 340 genomes from published sequences were included in this study.

Toxin types

"When screening the genomes for the evolutionary signatures, we noticed that the antimicrobial resistant pattern was striking from wave A to wave C," says Ankur Mutreja, a corresponding author, who is at the University of Cambridge.

"Also, since the toxin is the main virulence factor, we wanted to see if there was a particular toxin type that may have given the O139 strain some edge over the O1 strains circulating at that time," he adds.

The study showed that the two main modifications were in the cholera toxin genes and in the antimicrobial resistance (AMR) portfolio.

"With the reduction in AMR capacity of O139, it potentially lost its competitive advantage against the O1," says Dr. Mutreja. Another aspect comprised of the changes in the toxin gene from homogenous to heterogenous.

"This again highlights that the O139 bacterial population found it difficult to compete and thus, tried various toxin types to compete but it eventually could not compete," he explains.

Challenging study

Reviving the old collection of strains, sequence analysis and interpretation of mutations and other important genes pertinent to this study were great challenges. "After getting the results from the first round of analysis, we had several rounds of discussions about the focus areas in this study," says Thandavaranyan Ramamurthy, co-author of the paper, who is working as INSA Senior Scientist at the National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases, Kolkata.

The challenge was to keep an open mind and not have preconceived notions as to why O139 was so successful in displacing O1 in the beginning and yet declined quite early. "To keep the study as transparent and as holistic as possible we ensured that we screened the comprehensive genomic data in detail without thinking of all the theories that have been previously proposed," says Dr. Ramamurthy.

Surveillance necessary

The study points to AMR as a factor that can decide the success of certain populations of bacteria that go on to produce large outbreaks of disease. Continuous surveillance is therefore necessary to monitor if any of the serotypes and serogroups are gaining antibiotic resistance over time and may become major outbreak lineages at any time.

"To stay ahead of the curve and ensure best public health outcome, it is important that vaccines and treatments are regularly re-evaluated for efficiency to any newly evolving variants," says Dr. Ramamurthy.

Looking to nature for new therapies

The natural world around us is a time-tested source of new therapeutics

SPEAKING OF SCIENCE

D. BALASUBRAMANIAN

Progress in medicine requires a steady pipeline of new therapeutics with desirable biological activities. An optimistic view holds that the rapid strides made on several technological fronts would make it easier to discover and formulate new drugs.

An increased understanding of disease processes at the molecular level has yielded a long list of potential drug targets. Computer-aided "Rational Drug Design", the making of these designed drug candidates by organic chemists, followed by high throughput screening – where automation is used to test drug candidates – should aid in new discoveries. Yet, the pace of introduction of new drugs has not matched expectations.

Natural products

The natural world around us is a time-tested source of new therapeutics – traditional systems of medicine have relied on natural sources for several millennia. Natural products are chemicals that are found in plants and microorganisms that dwell in soil and water.

From the first clinical trial of an anti-cancer drug in 1946 until 2019, 40% of all approved anti-cancer drug molecules were either substances found in nature, or derived from natural products.

For the period 1981-2019, half of the 162 new antibacterial therapeutics are either pure natural products or nature-derived, meaning they are designed in laboratories, but are close relatives of molecules seen in nature (Newman and Cragg, *Journal of Natural Products*, 2020). An example is the antibiotic Azithromycin. It was first synthesised by chemists in Zagreb, Croatia, who cleverly added one new nitrogen atom to the structure of the naturally occurring and commonly used antibiotic erythromycin A. The resulting drug had fewer side effects than erythromycin, and is among the most widely prescribed antibiotics today.

Tinkering: Azithromycin was synthesised by adding one nitrogen atom to the structure of erythromycin A. • GETTY IMAGES

On the other hand, all the 14 antihistamine drugs presented as new chemical entities to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration between 1981 and 2019 are synthetic inventions (e.g., cetirizine).

Many potent natural products are present in vanishingly small amounts in their native state, making it difficult to collect enough of the molecule for laboratory investigations. They also occur along with dozens of other chemical entities, so pinpointing the molecule of interest is not straightforward, and requires laborious separation procedures. One way out is to synthesise quantities of an interesting molecule after preliminary results show promise.

New from old medicines

An instance of a new drug candidate from a natural source that has been traditionally used as medicine has been recently published (Woo and Shenvi, *Nature*, 2022). On the island of Papua New Guinea in the South Pacific, the Galbulimima tree yields a bark that has for long been used for treating pain and fevers. It is also used in rituals because it is hallucinogenic. When combined with the leaves of the Homalomena shrub, it is psychotropic, inducing a serene dream-like state that is followed by a tranquil sleep. Homalomena (*sugandhmantri* in Hindu, and *merugu* in Tamil) is found in India, and has been traditionally used for various ailments.

Galbulimima has intrigued medicinal chemists for several decades, and 40 unique alkaloids have been identified in extracts from this tree. Alkaloids are nitrogen-containing organic compounds found in many plants, e.g., quinine and nicotine.

Woo and Shenvi worked out an efficient way of synthesising the alkaloid GB18, which has a complex geometry. Their method produces gram quantities of GB18. In the bark, its concentration is measured in parts per million. Tests showed that it is an antagonist of opioid receptors.

Opioid receptors in human body are found in the nervous system and the digestive tract. Our bodies make natural opioids, such as endorphins that bind to these receptors and tone down the transmission of pain signals. Endorphins, thus, have analgesic properties, similar to opiates such as morphine. Endorphins also induce a sense of feeling good, of euphoria, which is a rewarding experience. Both these factors help explain the addictive potential of substances that trigger your opioid receptors.

GB18 does not influence the sensation of pain, but has cognitive effects – mice devote less time to grooming behaviors such as smoothening out their fur and whiskers.

The last antagonist of opioid receptors to be discovered, 35 years ago, was naltrexone. Sold in India under brand names such as Nodict and Naltima, it is used in the management of addiction to opioids as well as to alcohol. And as opioid receptors are also associated with the digestive system, naltrexone helps in weight reduction in the obese.

What will be the uses of GB18 and its many possible derivatives? Much work lies ahead, and many tantalising therapeutic possibilities.

(The article was written in collaboration with Sushil Chandani who works in molecular modelling. sushilchandani@gmail.com)

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Question Corner

Elephant's trunk

How different is an elephant's trunk from human tongue and octopus tentacles?

A new study has found that an elephant's muscles aren't the only way it stretches its trunk – its folded skin also plays an important role. The combination of muscle and skin gives the animal the versatility to grab fragile vegetation and rip apart tree trunks.

The research (*Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*) carried out by Georgia Institute of Technology found that an elephant's skin doesn't uniformly stretch. The top of the trunk is more flexible than the bottom, and the two sections begin to diverge when an elephant reaches more than 10%. When stretching for food or objects, the dorsal section of the trunk slides further forward.

The human tongue stretches uniformly when extended. The researchers expected the same when they challenged an elephant to reach for food. High-speed camera footage and plotting the trunk's movements showed that the top and bottom weren't the same at all, says a release.

After seeing the video, Dr. Andrew Schulz from Georgia Institute of Technology stretched the tissue of a dissected elephant to better understand the skin's elasticity. That's when he found that the top of the skin, which is folded, is 15% more flexible than the wrinkled bottom side.

The researchers also found that an elephant trunk differs in another way from other boneless, muscle-filled appendages found in nature, such as squid and octopus tentacles. Instead of extending evenly, an elephant telescopically stretches its trunk like an umbrella, gradually lengthening in waves.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

At a stalemate: Farmers demanding implementation of MSP on their produce in Mysuru. •M. A. SRIRAM

Farm panel deadlock

Why has the Samyukt Kisan Morcha refused to send representatives to the government committee?

A. M. JIGEESH

The story so far: On July 18, the Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Ministry formed a committee, headed by former Agriculture Secretary Sanjay Agrawal, to "promote zero budget based farming, to change crop pattern keeping in mind the changing needs of the country, and to make MSP (minimum support price) more effective and transparent," as promised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 19, 2021 while announcing the repeal of three controversial farm laws. Three slots were kept vacant in the 28-member committee to accommodate nominees of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), the umbrella body of about 300 farmers' organisations that spearheaded the protests against the three farm laws. With the agenda not mentioning making of a law on MSP, the SKM, on July 19, rejected the government's offer and said it will not send any of its representatives to the panel.

Why is the farmers' organisation upset?

■ Since the repeal of the three laws, the Centre communicated with the SKM on the formation of the panel and sought names. In their replies, the SKM wanted to know the terms of reference of the proposed committee, names and details of other organisations and individuals who will be included in the committee, chairman's details and so forth. The SKM claims that there were no replies to these queries and called for nationwide protests from July 19, the day the Monsoon session of Parliament began. The SKM says that the Centre hurriedly announced the committee to escape questions in Parliament about the delay. Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar, however, has said that the formation of the committee was stalled due to non-receipt of the names of the representatives from the SKM.

The SKM, which faced a minor split recently, is upset that the former Agriculture Secretary is chairman of the panel as he was at the helm when the Centre launched the three farm laws as ordinances. It also alleges that Niti Aayog member Ramesh Chand, who is also in the panel, was the main advocate of the farm laws. Economists C.S.C. Shekhar and Sukhpal Singh have been against giving legal status to MSP, the SKM argues. Both factions of the SKM also allege that the five members representing other farmers' associations are either directly associated with the BJP-RSS or support their policies.

> The SKM is miffed there is no mention of a minimum support price law on the agenda; the government says there was no promise of a law but that it wants to make MSP more effective

What is the government's stand?

■ According to the Centre, it had not promised the SKM a committee to ensure MSP. "The government had assured the formation of a committee to make MSP more effective and transparent, to promote natural farming and to change crop patterns keeping in mind the changing needs of the country. Accordingly, a committee has been constituted consisting of representatives of farmers, Central government, State governments, agricultural economists and scientists, etc.," Mr. Tomar said in Parliament.

What do the farmers want?

■ The farmers want legal guarantee of MSP, which should be as per the recommendation of the M.S. Swaminathan formula – C2 (input cost for the farming, including the land value) +50%; withdrawal of all cases against farmers who participated in protests and the resignation of the Minister of State for Home Affairs Ajay Teni over the Lakhimpur Kheri incident. On these demands, the SKM has started nationwide protests for a month from July 19. It also points out that there is no mention of making a law on MSP in the agenda of the committee. "That is, this question will not be placed before the committee. Some items have been put in the agenda on which the government committee is already established. In the name of reforms in agricultural marketing, an item has been inserted through which the government can try to bring back three black laws," it says.

What is the MSP on key crops now?

■ The government fixes MSPs for 22 mandated agricultural crops and fair and remunerative price (FRP) for sugarcane on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), after considering the views of the State Governments and Central Ministries/Departments. The 22 mandated crops (the MSP is for a quintal) include 14 kharif crops such as paddy (₹2,040), jowar (₹2,970), bajra (₹2,350), maize (₹1,962), ragi (₹3,578), tur (arhar- ₹6,600), moong (₹7,755), urad (₹6,600), groundnut (₹5,850), soyabean (₹4,300), sunflower (₹6,400), cotton (₹6,080) and six rabi crops including wheat (₹2,015), barley (₹1,635), gram (₹5,230), masur (lentil ₹5,500) and mustard (₹5,050) and two commercial crops jute (₹4,750) and copra (₹10,590).

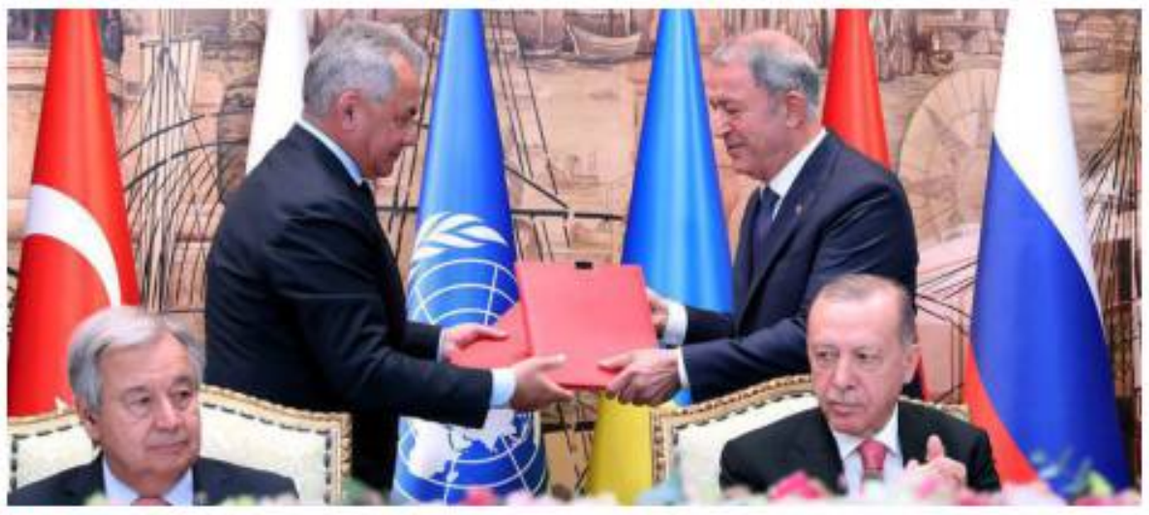
What happens next?

■ Farmers argue that the MSP is much less than the C2+50% formula. But the Centre says there is substantial improvement in the income of farmers as there is a consistent increase in MSP. "The struggle for the legal guarantee of MSP to ensure fair price for the crop to the farmers will continue," the SKM says.

Will Russia-Ukraine deal ease global food crisis?

How did the two countries at war arrive at an agreement over grain export from the Black Sea ports?

STANLY JOHNY



A first step: Russia's Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Turkish Defence Minister Hulusi Akar attend the signing ceremony of the grain deal in Istanbul, Turkey on July 22. •REUTERS

The story so far: In their first major deal since the February 24 war began, Russia and Ukraine on Friday agreed to resume grain exports from Black Sea ports as part of a deal negotiated by the United Nations and Turkey. The UN had initiated talks in April to unblock the millions of tonnes of wheat and other food items stuck in Ukraine's Black Sea ports that have been blockaded by Russia. The breakthrough appeared to have come in Russian President Vladimir Putin's summit meeting with his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Tehran last week. The agreement, signed separately by Russia and Ukraine with Turkey and the UN, is expected to ease a looming global food crisis.

Why is the agreement important?

■ Russia and Ukraine together account for more than a quarter of the world's wheat supplies. Russia's share in the global exports of wheat, the world's most widely grown crop, is some 20% according to 2020 figures, while Ukraine accounts for 8%. About 50 countries depend on Russia and Ukraine for more than 30% of their wheat imports. Besides wheat, Ukraine is the world's eighth largest producer and fourth largest exporter of corn, accounting for 16% of global exports. Further, Ukraine, which produces up to 46% of sunflower-seed and sunflower oil is the world's largest exporter of sunflower oil. The Ukraine war has therefore clearly hit one of the breadbaskets of the world. This heaped additional pressure on global food prices, which were already under strain due to climate shocks and the COVID-19 pandemic. The UN's Food Price Index averaged 154.2 points in June, 23% higher than its value a year ago. Food price inflation has soared across economies in recent weeks. The exports agreement, if implemented, would see Russian and Ukrainian grains flowing back into the market, easing prices.

How did the war impact grain exports?

■ Before the war, Ukraine had the capacity to export up to six million tonnes of food items a month, mainly through its Black Sea ports. The Russians have since captured some Ukrainian ports, including Mariupol and Berdyansk, and enforced a blockade on the ports that are still in Kyiv's control, including Odesa. According to Ukrainian authorities, more than 20 million tonnes of grain are stuck in warehouses and containers and they are not able to export them due to the Russian blockade. A new harvesting season began in June and the output is expected to be 60 million tonnes, a huge chunk of which are meant to be for exports. Ukraine would run out of warehousing capacity unless it immediately starts exports.

Russia has rejected criticism that its actions have caused the food crisis. It says Ukraine has heavily mined the waters around Odesa and Mykolaiv that have stopped vessels from anchoring in these ports. Russia also blamed Western sanctions for a fall in its exports that has also contributed to the food crisis. While the West says Russian food and fertilizer products were exempted from the sanctions, the financial sanctions have complicated payments.

What are the terms of the deal?

■ The agreement has sought to address the concerns of both countries while resuming grain exports. Ukraine has been wary of removing the sea mines because of the Russian threat. Russia has enforced the naval blockade on Ukraine's ports because it doesn't want Ukrainian ships to smuggle in weapons via the waters. According to the deal, a joint coordination centre will be set up in Istanbul comprising officials and military personnel from Russia, Ukraine and Turkey, along with UN representatives. These officials will check the vessels going to Ukraine's ports to make sure that they don't carry any weapons. The agreement doesn't call on Ukraine to de-mine its southern waters. But specific routes from Odesa and other Ukrainian ports would be earmarked for the ships with grain to sail to Turkey's Bosphorus. And if necessary, a minesweeper can be brought in to clear the routes to the ports. The agreement reached at Istanbul's 19th century Ottoman palace Dolmabahce is for a period of 120 days, which can be renewed. The plan is to allow Ukraine to export five million tonnes of grain a month, close to its pre-war level. As part of the UN framework, Russia is also expected to ramp up its grain and fertilizer exports. The U.S. Treasury Department had said earlier this month that buyers, banks and insurers would be allowed to purchase Russian grain. Turkey, a NATO ally that hasn't joined Western sanctions against Russia, has called the deal a "path towards" peace. But the key to unblock the path lies in its implementation.

> Russia and Ukraine together account for more than a quarter of the world's wheat supplies. The exports agreement, if implemented, will see Russian and Ukrainian grain flowing back into the market, easing prices

What is the controversy over GST levies on food?

Why have pre-packaged and labelled food items been brought under the tax net now? What are traders saying?

VIKAS DHOOT

The story so far: From July 18, a 5% Goods and Services Tax (GST) has been levied on several food items and grains that are sold in a pre-packed, labelled form even if they are not branded. So far, these items, which include curd, lassi, buttermilk, puffed rice, wheat, pulses, oats, maize and flour, were exempted from the GST net. The fresh tax levies have attracted an outcry from traders as well as Opposition parties, with proceedings in Parliament's Monsoon session repeatedly disrupted over the issue.

How did the rate hikes come about?

■ The 5% tax on unbranded packed food items was approved by the GST Council in late June, and was part of a broader set of changes in the GST structure to do away with tax exemptions as well as concessional tax rates. Some of the other items to have lost their tax-exempt status include bank cheques, maps and atlases, hotel rooms that cost up to ₹1,000 a night, and hospital room rents of over ₹5,000 a day. While the decision was signed off by the Council, chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, after a two-day meeting in Chandigarh last month, the ground for such changes in the GST regime was set at the Council's previous 'regular' meeting at Lucknow in September 2021. During that meeting, the Centre and States had discussed the need to raise revenues from the GST, which at the time of its launch five years ago, was premised on levying a 'revenue-neutral' rate of 15.5%. Officials made a detailed presentation to show that several changes in rates since 2017 had brought down the effective rate to 11.6%. Shoring up GST revenues was the driving force for the Council's decision to form two groups of Ministers (GoMs) – one to consider steps to rationalise the tax rates and correct anomalies, and another to tap technology to improve compliance. The current rate changes stem from an interim report of the first ministerial group, led by Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai based on officials' recommendations.

What has the government said on the issue?

■ On Tuesday, Ms. Sitharaman hit out at misconceptions about the GST levies on food items and dismissed suggestions that they were imposed unilaterally by the Centre. The 5% levy, she said, was critical to curb tax leakages and was not taken by 'one member' of the GST Council alone as all States had agreed to the move. She also pointed out that all affected food items, including wheat, pulses, rice, curd and lassi, will be exempt from GST when sold loose. The Revenue Department has also clarified that pre-packed items weighing over 25 kg would not attract GST. While some States have now opposed the tax, the Finance Minister has asserted that all States, including Opposition-ruled States like West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Kerala, had agreed to the move in the Council. The decision, she pointed out, was made with the 'complete consensus' of all members of the Council. Revenue officials have also noted that such items attracted taxes in several States before the GST regime was introduced. "When GST was rolled out, a GST rate of 5% was made applicable on branded cereals, pulses, flour. Later this was amended to tax only such items which were sold under a registered brand or brands on which enforceable right was not foregone by [the] supplier," Ms. Sitharaman said. This tax exemption triggered 'rampant misuse' by reputed manufacturers and brand owners leading to a gradual drop in revenues.

What next?

■ The government has said that the GST hikes can be debated in Parliament once Ms. Sitharaman recovers from a COVID-19 infection. The traders' body, the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT), has urged all Chief Ministers to roll back the tax by holding an emergency meeting of the GST Council, arguing that 85% of the country's consumers use such unbranded goods. Economists expect a marginal impact from these taxes on India's consumer inflation rate that has now been over 7% through the first quarter of 2022-23. One will have to wait for August's retail inflation print to gauge the effect. The GST Council is also expected to meet again in August, where the issue may be raked up afresh. Meanwhile, the Karnataka CM has urged firms to avail of input tax credits on their packaging material rather than transfer the full 5% tax onto consumers. On cue, the Karnataka Milk Federation partially rolled back price hikes for curd, lassi and buttermilk. How the majority of informal market players implement these taxes may be an important factor in determining the next chapter of GST rate rationalisation.

How will SC ruling on abortion impact women?

Does the interpretation of the law allow unmarried women to avail of health care services unlike before?

RAMYA KANNAN

The story so far: Last week, the Supreme Court of India allowed an unmarried woman to end her pregnancy at 24 weeks, after the Delhi High Court refused to allow it, citing the provisions of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act. The top court said if a medical board assessed that the pregnancy could be terminated without any harm to the mother, then she could go ahead and have an abortion.

What was the Delhi High Court's position?

■ The 25-year-old unmarried woman came to the Supreme Court on appeal after the Delhi High Court turned down her plea to allow her to have a medical termination of her pregnancy because the terms of her relationship with her partner had changed.

Her plea was that she had had a consensual relationship with her partner, but he had refused to marry her after she discovered her pregnancy at about 22 weeks. Being unmarried and raising a child carries a stigma in society and therefore she would like to terminate her pregnancy, she said.

The Delhi High Court had taken the view that she was unmarried and since the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act allowed only married women to terminate the pregnancy after 20 weeks, she would not be eligible to get an abortion. The Court said it would amount to killing the foetus, since she was in the 23rd week of her pregnancy. "As of today, Rule 3B of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Rules, 2003 stands, and this court, while exercising its power under Article 226 of the Constitution of India, 1950, cannot go beyond the statute," it observed in its order on July 15.

The bench of Justices Satish Chandra Sharma and Subramonium Prasad suggested she give birth to the child and offer up the child for adoption. "We will ensure that she is kept somewhere in a safe hospital and she can deliver and go. There is a big queue for adoption... Everything will be looked after by the Government of India or (the) government of Delhi or some good hospital. If the government does not pay... I am there to pay," Justice Sharma said.

What did the Supreme Court decide?

■ The Supreme Court, however, took an expansive view of the issue. A bench of Justices D.Y. Chandrachud, Surya Kant, and A.S. Bopanna said the MTP Act which was amended in 2021 has the word partner instead of husband, exhibiting the intention of the law of the land to not confine it to only marital relationships. The judges said that the petitioner cannot be denied the benefit of the law, on the ground that she was unmarried, and that doing so would be contrary to the 'object and spirit' of the legislation. The judges noted compassionately that the woman had also stated that she was the eldest of five siblings in a family of agriculturists, and had a B.A. degree without an adequate income. This would make it difficult for her to raise the child by herself.

Further, the bench directed the director of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) to set up a medical board of two doctors to examine the woman (as per the provisions of the MTP Act) to determine if it was safe and not a risk to the life of the mother to terminate the pregnancy. If it is their opinion that it is safe to do so, then AIIMS can conduct the procedure on her.

What lies ahead?

■ While disallowing her petition, the Delhi High Court ordered notice to the government on the woman's contention that not allowing an unmarried woman (3B of MTP Act) to get rid of her unwanted pregnancy was per se discriminatory.

As per the MTP Act, all women are allowed to get a medical termination of pregnancy before 20 weeks. But only certain categories of women are allowed to have an abortion between 20 and 24 weeks – survivors of rape, minors, and a married woman whose relationship status has altered during this period.

The Supreme Court's expansion of the law to include unmarried women as part of the MTP Act has given women in similar circumstances an option now to access healthcare services without having to travel the long legal route to the top court every time.

MOHAMMAD BIN SALMAN

The remarkable rise of a ruthless reformer

Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince, irrespective of the criticism he faces, has consolidated power at home and made powerful friends abroad

ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

SUHASINI HAIDAR

In a test of wills with the leader of the world's most powerful country, and a man more than double his age, 36-year old Mohammad Bin Salman, the Crown Prince of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, would be an unlikely winner. Yet, every summary of his talks with U.S. President Joseph Biden last week has shown MBS, as he is known, to have got the better of the more experienced global statesman.

More so because up until when the two met, at the Saudi Royal palace in Jeddah on July 15, Mr. Biden had sworn to treat MBS as an outcast, and just last month, insisted he would not meet one-on-one with the Crown Prince when he travelled to Saudi Arabia to meet the King and other regional leaders.

From the first "fist bump" that the two greeted each other with, however, it was clear that it was MBS who would be Mr. Biden's main host, and controlled and dominated the narrative of the visit. More important, analysts said, MBS received every honour from his American guest, without actually giving up much in negotiations, whether it was guarantees on boosting oil production, or taking stronger positions alongside the U.S. against Russia or China, or in normalising ties with Israel (although Saudi Arabia did agree to open its airspace for flights).

To those who have watched MBS's meteoric rise in his father's court, his ability to have prevailed in the tussle doesn't come as a surprise. Former Ambassador Talmiz Ahmad, who spent nearly a decade over three postings in Saudi Arabia, calls Prince Salman a "unique phenomenon" in Saudi politics. His ascension marks not just a generational change, but a "leap across two generations", given that his father, 86-year old King Salman, chose MBS, his seventh son who was born from his third wife, rather than a successor from among MBS's uncles, as was the convention, or even MBS's older and more experienced brothers.

While King Salman did keep the kingdom guessing for a couple of years after ascending to the throne in 2015, he appointed MBS his Crown Prince in 2017, casting aside powerful figures like Muqrin bin Abdulaziz and Mohammad bin Naif, who were expected to be the successors. MBS was now Crown Prince, Minister of Defence, head of the royal court and head of the twin supreme political and development councils, and became the de facto ruler in the years that followed. When asked about the decision, King Salman reportedly said he was the only one of his sons "ruthless" enough to control a Kingdom with such entrenched power centres and such a large royal family.

This came as a surprise, as the young Crown Prince had no military training, nor had he studied abroad (MBS studied Law at King Saud University), in comparison to siblings who held ministerial positions – one that was a PhD at Oxford university, and another, a Saudi Air Force pilot who became an astronaut. "Apart from co-option and coercion, I would say his most powerful weapon is not ruthlessness, but ruthlessness with calculation," said Mr. Ahmad.

During President Joe Biden's recent visit to the Kingdom, MBS received every honour from his American guest, without actually giving up much in negotiations

The calculation doesn't always pay off. His first act as Defence Minister, for example, was to begin an unrelenting bombardment of Yemen, a campaign that has not yet brought the surrender from Houthi rebels that he had hoped for. His decision to lead a Gulf country boycott of Qatar floundered after a year, and he had to patch up with the Qatari royal family without receiving the assurances he had demanded.

Risky actions

The incarceration of hundreds of royals and other elites at the Ritz Carlton, held there on corruption charges, silenced them, but led to considerable resentment against him within the family. The atmosphere of zero tolerance for disloyalty that reportedly led to the alleged killing and dismemberment of journalist Jamal Khashoggi at the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul, as well as the Pegasus surveillance operation he reportedly ordered on civil society members, brought the Crown Prince untold international opprobrium.

Even so, MBS's moves have catapulted him to greater control of his Kingdom. The more harshly he dealt with the three erstwhile power centres – of royals, businessmen and religious clergy – the more his popularity rose among the Saudi Kingdom's restless youth. For them, he promised a new future, under a "Vision 2030" programme, a shift from the Kingdom's dependence on oil revenues to create education and job opportunities, and the dream of a new $500 billion high-tech city project in the desert called 'Neom'.

Socially, Saudi subjects began to see changes they had never dreamed off – where women no longer had to be fully veiled or abide by strict guardianship rules, could drive cars, and men and women could walk around freely without fear of the "Muttaween" religious police of the Committee for the Promotion of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice, attend cinemas and rap and hip-hop concerts. Like his father, and previous rulers since 9/11, MBS has also sought to delink the Kingdom's image from its past role in funding and fostering Islamic extremist groups, by employing tougher means.

He oversaw Saudi Arabia's largest mass execution earlier this year, with 81 people hanged for crimes of "terrorism and extremist ideologies". With such summary actions have come the accusations that MBS has trampled human rights in the Kingdom, with activists highlighting the incarceration and alleged torture of dissident writer Raif Badawi and women's activist Loujain Alhathloul, who have both been freed now, but remain under travel restrictions. Many worry that if MBS can wield so much absolute power as Crown Prince at less than 40 years old, how much tyranny could he possibly unleash as King, given that he could well reign for as much as half a century more.

Western criticism

None of the international, particularly western, criticism appears to impress MBS, instead turning him to seek other partnerships including with Beijing, Moscow, India, Indonesia and other countries. "Simply, I do not care," he said in an interview earlier this year to *The Atlantic*. However, the impact of his decisions domestically may actually make Mohammad Bin Salman care, especially as he grows closer to his ailing father's throne. Like how he will deal with Israel after his friend and competitor UAE ruler Mohammad Bin Zayed has opened ties, while assuaging the feelings of his religious clergy and subjects on Palestine. And how far can MBS go in the proxy battle with Iran, given the sizeable Shia population back home?

After the controversy over comments on the Prophet in India, it was also significant that Saudi Arabia followed other Gulf countries rather than leading them in condemnation, pointing to MBS's close embrace of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and offers of $100 billion investment to India. On business, MBS will need to convince his own population that opening up the Kingdom for investment will not dilute strict citizenship laws, and his plans to attract global expatriates to Neom won't hollow out the KSA's coffers.

"Experience teaches that the most dangerous time for a bad government is usually when it begins to reform," said French politician and thinker Alexis de Tocqueville in the early 1800s, and therein may lie MBS's biggest challenge in the years ahead.

In Focus

- Salman, who became King in 2015, appointed MBS, his seventh son, as the Crown Prince in 2017, casting aside powerful figures in the royal family
- MBS launched a war on Yemen, enforced a blockade on Qatar and initiated a brutal anti-corruption drive at home, while also unleashing a host of reform measures
- Joe Biden had promised to punish and isolate MBS, but one and a half years after he became President, he travelled to Saudi Arabia, seeking support in stabilising energy prices and strengthening regional security

JAGDEEP DHANKHAR

The party loyalist

The controversial West Bengal Governor is set to be elected next Vice-President

SHIV SAHAY SINGH

ILLUSTRATION: J.A. PREMKUMAR

On July 30, 2019 when Jagdeep Dhankhar took oath as the Governor of West Bengal, not many in the political and social circles were familiar with his name. The last public office Mr. Dhankhar held was in 1998 as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Rajasthan, more than two decades before assuming office of a Governor. Cut to 2022: the 71-year-old politician has been nominated as the Vice-Presidential candidate of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA). What has led to his fame perhaps is his eventful but rather controversial term as the Governor of West Bengal.

Centre-State relations, particularly the role of the Governor, has been a subject of much debate in West Bengal, a State that has been ruled by Opposition parties for the past five decades. Even in the past, Governors of the State and elected governments of West Bengal have had differences, but the situation took a distinctly different turn with Mr. Dhankhar in office. His three-year term was mired in regular public spats with the Trinamool Congress government. From trivial issues like seating arrangements at government events to withholding assent to Bills, a war of words between Raj Bhawan and the State Secretariat was a regular affair.

Mr. Dhankhar minced no words while targeting the Trinamool government on sensitive issues such as law and order and post-poll violence. While these developments kept him in the national headlines, it also appeared that he was playing a partisan role in State politics, in tandem with the BJP's demands. Things reached such an extent that the State government passed a Bill replacing the Governor with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee as Chancellor of State-run Universities.

During his five decades of public life, Mr. Dhankhar had associated with different political parties – the Janata Party, the Congress and the BJP before assuming the charge of Governor of West Bengal. Born on May 18, 1951 in Rajasthan's Jhunjhunu district in a family engaged in agriculture, he studied in a village school and later at Sainik School in Chittorgarh, on a scholarship. He obtained degrees in physics and law from Rajasthan University, and started legal practice before foraying into politics in 1989. He was elected to the Lok Sabha from Jhunjhunu that same year. In the government headed by Chandrasekhar, he became the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs in 1990. After 1998, he dedicated himself to legal practice. He joined the BJP in 2008. Since then Mr. Dhankhar has also been a loyal soldier of the BJP.

Humble beginnings

A mix of legislative, legal and administrative experience has worked in favour of Mr. Dhankhar's nomination. The BJP leadership emphasised on his humble beginnings and described their Vice-President nominee as a 'Kisan Putra' (son of a farmer). Soon after his nomination, Mr. Dhankhar was also quick to stress on his humble beginnings, and said he walked kilometres to his school in the village and completed higher studies with the support of a scholarship. Besides his farming credentials, the fact that Mr. Dhankhar hails from the Jat community also made him the right pick. It was resistance of the farmers and leaders from the Jat community that forced the Centre to withdraw the three farm laws in 2021. If elected Vice-President, he will be the second leader from Rajasthan after Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, to hold the high office.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while congratulating Mr. Dhankhar, stressed that he has excellent knowledge of the Constitution and is "well versed in legislative affairs". During his tenure as Governor, Mr. Dhankhar had repeated almost at every occasion that he did not want to fiddle around in Raj Bhawan and his allegiance was only to the Constitution. He has fancied calling himself the first Governor of West Bengal born in independent India. With numbers stacked in his favour, Mr. Dhankhar is likely to assume the responsibility of Vice-President at the time when the country is celebrating 75 years of the republic. As Vice-President, he will also serve as chairperson of the Rajya Sabha. He will require something more than his legal skills to win the faith of the Opposition and strike the right balance in running the Upper House of Parliament which looks after the welfare of States.

JAFAR PANAHI

High reward, high risk

The award-winning Iranian filmmaker was ordered to serve six years in prison

SRINIVASAN RAMANI

ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R KUMAR

Celebrated Iranian filmmaker Jafar Panahi was ordered to serve a six-year prison term last week after visiting the Evin prison in Tehran to ask about one of two fellow film directors – Mohammad Rasoulof and Mostafa Al-e Ahmad – who had been arrested recently for critical social media posts about the collapse of a 10-storey building in Abadan in May.

The Evin prison is notorious as a site that houses Iran's prominent political dissidents, including intellectuals. Mr. Panahi's wife, Tahereh Saidi told BBC Persian that he was promptly arrested by prison guards at the time of his visit, after being told that he had an outstanding prison sentence to serve. Ms. Saidi went on to denounce his arrest as a "kidnapping".

The arrest was a fallout of Mr. Panahi's support for the Green wave movement that occurred following the controversial re-election of former President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in 2009. The election was termed fraudulent by protesters, including Mr. Panahi and other filmmakers such as Mohsen Makhmalbaf and Mr. Rasoulof, who believed that the rightful winner was the reformist politician Mir-Hossein Mousavi. After a period of sustained street protests that began non-violently, the movement petered out following severe state repression even as supporters sought to use the electoral process to gain victories for reformists. Originally sentenced to prison for supporting the anti-regime demonstrations in 2010, the director later received a conditional release from house arrest that allowed him to travel freely within Iran but banned him from directing or making any movies for 20 years.

Mr. Panahi's work in recent years can only be characterised as "high risk, high rewards". Following his conditional release, Mr. Panahi continued to make films with limited resources, defying the ban. *This is not a Film*, made in 2011, was an autobiographical documentary that detailed his life in house arrest and was viewed in the Cannes film festival in the same year after the film was smuggled out of Iran on a flash drive hidden inside a birthday cake. *Closed Curtain* (pardeh in Persian), made in 2013, was secretly shot in Mr. Panahi's vacation home on the Caspian Sea, made as a "docufiction" that combines autobiographical notes showing Mr. Panahi in a despondent mood, while trapped in his house with a fictional plot as well. This film premiered in the Berlin International Film Festival in 2013 and also received the Silver Bear for best script. Another semi-autobiographical "docufiction" *Taxi*, followed in 2015, and won the Golden Bear at Berlin besides critical acclaim across the world even as it was denounced by Iranian conservatives.

International acclaim notwithstanding, these subversive films (made in the face of a ban) were a break from Mr. Panahi's method and emphasis that placed him among the best of the Iranian new wave filmmaker generation, which included other auteurs such as Abbas Kiarostami (Mr. Panahi worked as an assistant director with him), Mr. Makhmalbaf (some include his daughter Samira as one as well), Majid Majidi, Asghar Farhadi, among others.

Neo-realism

Most of the films from this generation of directors came under the rubric of neo-realism but with "Iranian characteristics" – combining a "high degree of reflexivity and [allegorical] symbolism" to work within the framework of the censorious regime under the Islamic Republic, to quote a paper by Trent Griffiths in 2015.

Mr. Panahi's initial work fitted this framework before becoming increasingly political without directly referencing the political system. The poignant *The Circle* (Dayereh in Persian), made in 2000, depicts the lives of four Iranian women living under the restrictions of Islamic law. The humane film *Offside* (2006) tells the story of a group of girls who are football enthusiasts and seek to watch a game – Iranian women are not allowed in stadiums. His other award-winning films include *Crimson Gold* (2003).

With social unrest and protests increasing in Iran in recent years independent filmmaking has become an even more difficult proposition, with the regime increasing its hostility to anything critical of the system. It is this milieu that has chosen not to spare even the most celebrated of Iranian directors from arrest and persecution.

ICICI Bank Q1 net rises 50% to ₹6,905 cr.

Lender's domestic loan portfolio grows by 22%, net NPA ratio declines to 0.70% as on June 30

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

ICICI Bank Ltd. on Saturday reported first-quarter standalone net profit grew 50% from a year earlier to ₹6,905 crore, helped by strong loan growth and an improvement in asset quality.

The private lender's consolidated net profit grew 55% year-on-year to ₹7,385 crore.

"Our core operating profit (profit before provisions and tax, excluding treasury income) grew by 19% year-on-year to ₹10,273 crore in a risk calibrated manner," Sandeep Batra, executive director, ICICI Bank, said in a post-earnings conference call.

He said the bank's net interest income grew by 21% to ₹13,210 crore and total deposits grew by 13% to ₹10,50,349 crore.

Retail boost: ICICI's retail loan portfolio grew by 24% and comprised 53.1% of the total loan portfolio. • FILE PHOTO

During the quarter, the bank's domestic loan portfolio grew by 22% and the net NPA ratio declined to 0.70% as on June 30, from 0.76% at the end of the preceding quarter on March 31, 2022.

"Net NPA is at a comfortable level," Mr. Batra said. "We are happy the way net NPA has reduced. We are getting some write-back at this time," he added.

NPA additions shrink

Net additions to gross NPAs totalled ₹382 crore, compared with net additions of ₹3,604 crore a year earlier.

First-quarter gross NPA additions were ₹5,825 crore, compared with ₹4,204 crore in the March quarter. Recoveries and upgrades of NPAs, excluding write-offs and sale, were ₹5,443 crore, an increase from the preceding quarter's ₹4,693 crore, the bank said in a filing.

The gross NPAs written-off in Q1 were ₹1,126 crore. The provisioning coverage ratio on NPAs was 79.6% as on June 30, it said.

Excluding NPAs, total fund based outstanding to all borrowers under resolution as per extant regulations declined to ₹7,376 crore, or 0.8% of total advances, from ₹8,267 crore on March 31.

The bank said it held provisions amounting to ₹2,290 crore against these borrowers under resolution, as of June 30. In addition, the bank held contingency provisions of ₹8,500 crore.

Net interest margin

The net interest margin was 4.01%, compared with 3.89% a year earlier.

The bank's provisions (excluding provision for tax) declined by 60% to ₹1,144 crore, from ₹2,852 crore. Provisions, including a contingency provision of ₹1,050 crore, was made on a prudent basis, Mr. Batra said.

During the quarter, the bank's retail loan portfolio grew by 24% and comprised 53.1% of the total loan portfolio. The domestic wholesale banking portfolio grew by 14% and domestic advances grew by 22%. Total advances rose 21% to ₹8,95,625 crore.

Yes Bank Q1 profit climbs 50% to ₹311 cr. on lower provisions

New disbursements grow 87% to ₹22,636 crore

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Yes Bank Ltd. reported net profit for the first quarter rose 50% year-on-year to ₹311 crore, aided by a drop in bad loan provisions and a jump in net interest income.

Net interest income (NII) grew 32% to ₹1,850 crore while net interest margin at 2.4% increased 30 basis points (bps), the private lender said in a filing.

Total provisions declined 62% to ₹175 crore, primarily aided by lower slippages. Advances grew 14%, deposits increased 18% and the balance sheet expanded 17%.

New disbursements grew 87% to ₹22,636 crore. Asset quality also improved during the quarter. GNPA ratio

stood at 13.4%, compared with 15.6% in the year-earlier period. The net NPA ratio shrank to 4.2%, from 5.8% in the first quarter of FY22.

Lower slippages

Slippages were lower at ₹1,072 crore in comparison with ₹2,233 crore.

"Resolution momentum continues with total recoveries and upgrades at ₹1,532 crore in line with the annual guidance of ₹5,000 crore," the bank said in a statement.

The lender said it had successfully come out of the reconstruction scheme with the formation of an alternate board with effect from July 15, following shareholders' approval.

The new board had recommended the appointment of Prashant Kumar as MD & CEO for three years, subject to approval of the RBI and shareholders.

The bank said it had signed a binding term sheet with partner JC Flowers to form an asset reconstruction company to sell an identified pool of almost ₹48,000 crore of stressed assets.

Kotak Mahindra Bank Q1 net rises 26% to ₹2,071 cr.

Net interest income increases 19%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Private lender Kotak Mahindra Bank said first-quarter standalone net profit grew 26% to ₹2,071 crore.

Net interest income (NII) increased 19% to ₹4,697 crore. Net interest margin (NIM) stood at 4.92% for Q1 FY23, the bank said.

Customer assets, including advances and credit substitutes, increased by 29% to ₹3,03,629 crore. Advances climbed 29% from the year-earlier period to ₹2,80,171 crore. CASA ratio as at June 30 stood at 58.1%. Average current deposits grew 19% to ₹55,081 crore.

Average fixed rate savings deposits rose 8% to ₹1,14,237 crore. Average term deposits grew 16% to ₹1,30,035

crore, the lender said.

COVID-related provisions stood at ₹482 crore. In accordance with COVID Resolution Framework announced by the RBI, the bank said it had standard restructured fund-based outstanding of ₹379 crore.

As at June 30, GNPA stood 2.24% and NNPA at 0.62%. Capital adequacy ratio stood at 22.1%.

Rising natural fibre demand a boost for farmers: ReshaMandi

'Natural fibre is the backbone of $138-bn textiles industry'

MINI TEJASWI
BENGALURU

India's natural fibre industry is expected to grow steadily in the coming years on the back of the growing domestic and global demand for the commodity, according to Mayank Tiwari, Founder and CEO, ReshaMandi, a farm-to-fashion digital marketplace for natural fibres.

The growing demand has opened up huge opportunities for farmers who want to grow plants used for plant-based and pulp-based natural fibres, he added.

"Natural fibres are considered the backbone of the Indian textiles industry which is projected to reach $195 billion by 2025 from $138 billion currently," Mr.

Tiwari said in an interview. "The demand for natural fibres has been on a steady rise and this opens up opportunities for farmers, especially for growing cotton, silk, jute, wool and linen."

The close relationship of the textiles industry with agriculture (for raw materials), the lineage and heritage of the techniques used in the sector made the country a unique market as compared with other textile industries across the world, Mr. Tiwari observed.

Sustainability issues

Elaborating on the drivers of the natural-fibre sector, he said, end customers, even in developing countries such as India, were becoming increasingly conscious of sustainability issues and the entire life cycle of products and materials right from the origin/source.

"In the last couple of years, 'sustainable' and 'organic' have become indispensable buzzwords in India's fashion industry with brands committed to being 100% organic and using natural fibres," he added.

'Duroflex eyes FY25 turnover of ₹2,000-cr.'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Duroflex Pvt. Ltd. plans to achieve a turnover of ₹2,000 crore by FY25, said Mathew Chandy, chief managing director of the mattress and bed liner maker.

"We were able to double our turnover to ₹1,000 crore during FY22, that too, during the pandemic and a year ahead of schedule," he told *The Hindu*.

"Our next goal is to achieve ₹2,000 crore turnover by FY25. We have already drawn a road map.

"This we will achieve through good growth, good profit, increasing footprint and digital initiatives." Duroflex has eight facilities in India to make mattresses, pillows, bed linen and furniture.

'Continental Automotive focusing on localisation'

Aims to make products affordable: CEO

LALATENDU MISHRA
MUMBAI

Continental Automotive India Private Ltd., the wholly owned subsidiary of Continental AG of Germany, is focusing on localisation to scale up its business, president and CEO Prashanth Doreswamy said.

"Localisation is very important in India as it is a very value-driven market as importing everything gets very expensive," he said in an interview. "The biggest challenge is to make our products affordable. That is why localisation is very important for us" he added.

"At this point of time, it [business volume in India] could be X but Continental sees huge growth happening like what happened in

China two years back," Mr. Doreswamy said."While the India market is growing at about 8%, we were growing at about 20%," he added.

The firm recently opened a plant in Pune for surface solutions business in which it has invested more than ₹200 crore. Continental makes applications for seating, door trims and instrument panels which are an alternative to leather and come at a much lower cost.

IN BRIEF

Bengaluru FC recruits four younsters

BENGALURU

Bengaluru FC (BFC) has signed four young players ahead of the upcoming 2022-23 season.

Local lads and strikers Sudheer Kotikala and Ankith Padmanabhan, who represented Karnataka in their run to the Santosh Trophy semifinal, have signed two and three-year deals respectively. Joining them in the BFC roster are defenders Clarence Fernandes and Felixson Conny Fernandes, who were scouted from the JSW Youth Cup. Clarence and Felixson signed three-year deals.

Kevin and Sai Janvi triumph

BENGALURU

Kevin Titus and Sai Janvi emerged as the champions in the Topspin AITA under-18 tennis championship series tournament at Topspin courts here.

The results (finals): Boys: Kevin Titus bt Tanush 6-3, 6-4; **Girls:** Sai Janvi bt Hridyeshi 6-3 6-1.

Wellalage may get the nod

The 19-year-old could replace injured spinner Theekshana

PAKISTAN IN SL

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
GALLE

Sri Lanka's teenage spinner Dunith Wellalage has been included in the final 12 for the second Test against Pakistan here, skipper Dimuth Karunaratne said on Saturday.

The 19-year-old Wellalage, a left-arm orthodox who awaits his Test debut, seems a likely replacement for injured spinner Maheesh Theekshana as the hosts look to bounce back in the two-match series after their opening loss.

"Dunith Wellalage is back in the squad," after being released from the Test squad for a domestic match, Karunaratne told reporters.

Historic

"Asitha Fernando is back in the 12. Those are the only changes," he added on the eve of Angelo Mathews'

Landmark beckons: Mathews is all set to play his 100th Test on Sunday. • AFP

landmark 100th Test starting on Sunday.

Wellalage, also handy with the bat, played a key role with his nine wickets in Sri Lanka's 3-2 one-day series win over Australia last month, and could partner Prabath Jayasuriya in the final Test.

The tourists have been hit by an injury to pace spearhead Shaheen Shah Afridi, who took four first innings wickets in the opener.

"He is inspirational, leads the bowling unit from the front, and we will miss his aggression and his presence," said Pakistan coach Saqlain Mushtaq.

The pitch at Galle has changed character in all three matches played in the past few weeks, including two Tests against Australia.

TAI thanks the GoM

RACING

SPORTS BUREAU

The Turf Authorities of India (TAI) thanked the Group of Ministers (GoM) on casinos, racecourses and online gaming viz. Conrad K. Sangma, Suresh Kumar Khanna, and Mauvin Godinho, and other officials for visiting the Bangalore Turf Club Ltd. on Saturday to get a first-hand information on horse racing and functioning of the club with specific reference to totalizator operations.

Fruitful

"The meeting was fruitful and we hope it will lead to a positive representation by the GoM to the honorable members of the GST Council regarding the impact of GST on horse racing", said K. Uday Eswaran, chairman, TAI.

Theon primed to deliver in feature

BENGALURU: Theon, who is in fine fettle, may score in the Bangalore St. Leger (2,800m), the chief event of the races to be held here on Sunday (July 24). False rails (width about 5m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1 CAMINO PLATE (DIV. II), (1,400m), rated 00 to 25, 5-y-o & over, 2-00 p.m.: 1. Bramastram (7) Nazerul 61.5, 2. Beldona (9) Akshay K 58.5, 3. Akasi (1) Vivek 57, 4. Capital Gain (8) Mark 57, 5. Gallic (10) Rajesh K 57, 6. Paradise Beckons (5) Rayan 57, 7. Lightning Charlie (6) P. Surya 56.5, 8. Max Mueller (11) Vinod Shinde 55.5, 9. Activated (3) Trevor 55, 10. Jai Vikram (4) Jagadeesh 54, 11. Ultimate Power (12) G. Vivek 52.5 and 12. Challenging Star (2) Vishal B 52.

1. BELDONA, 2. ACTIVATED, 3. CAPITAL GAIN

2 BHISHMA PLATE (DIV. II), (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 4-y-o & over, 2-30: 1. Striking Memory (6) S. Saqlain 60, 2. Electric Blue (1) Akshay K 59, 3. Osiris (7) Arvind K 57.5, 4. Brooklyn Supreme (8) Chethan K 57, 5. Limited Edition (3) Salman K 57, 6. Pastiche (13) Darshan 57, 7. Rorito (10) Tousif 57, 8. Toronero (4) L.A. Rozario 57, 9. Ansaldo (5) Srinath 56.5, 10. Johnnie Black (11) Jagadeesh 56, 11. Marco Polo (2) Shreyas S 56, 12. Super Ruffian (12) Hindu S 54.5 and 13. Rightly Noble (9) P. Surya 54.

1. ELECTRIC BLUE, 2. TORONERO, 3. ANSALDO

3 D.M. KUMARASWAMY MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,600m), rated 40 to 65, 5-y-o & over, 3-00: 1. Forever Together (3) Angad 62, 2. Caracas (6) Akshay K 60, 3. Multistarrer (4) Trevor 59.5, 4. Extraordinary (7) Arvind K 55, 5. Starry Wind (5) Shreyas S 54.5, 6. Ombudsman (2) G. Vivek 52.5 and 7. Silverita (1) Hindu S 52.5.

1. FOREVER TOGETHER, 2. MULTISTARRER

4 BARALOY PLATE (DIV. II), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 4-y-o & over, 3-30: 1. Domina (4) S. John 60, 2. Habanero (7) G. Vivek 58, 3. Black Whizz (3) Raghuveer S 57.5, 4. Sainthood (8) Chethan K 57.5, 5. The Adviser (6) Arvind K 57, 6. Artesian (1) Saddam H 55.5, 7. Rule Of Law (5) Vishal B 55.5, 8. Java Peninsula (2) Rajesh K 54.5 and 9. Don's Den (9) Jagadeesh 53.

1. THE ADVISER, 2. DOMINO, 3. DON'S DEN

5 BANGALORE ST. LEGER (2,800m), 4-y-o & over, (Terms), 4-00: 1. My Opinion (1) Akshay K 58.5, 2. Pissarro (3) Trevor 58.5, 3. Theon (2) P.S. Chouhan 58.5, 4. Speedster (4) Suraj 57 and 5. Flash Bond (–) (–) 55.5.

1. THEON, 2. SPEEDSTER

6 BHISHMA PLATE (DIV. I), (1,400m), rated 20 to 45, 4-y-o & over, 4-30: 1. Three Aces (11) S. Saqlain 61.5, 2. Dragon's Gold (6) Suraj 60.5, 3. Lagopus (1) R. Pradeep 60.5, 4. Acaster (3) Srinath 58.5, 5. Dr Logan (9) L.A. Rozario 58, 6. War Eagle (4) Akshay K 58, 7. Aferpi (5) Rajesh K 57, 8. Silver Swift (2) Ajinkya 56, 9. Stunning Beauty (7) Arvind K 55.5, 10. Altair (12) Siddaraju 53.5, 11. Impeccable (8) Vinod Shinde 53 and 12. Regal Melody (10) Vishal B 51.

1. DRAGON'S GOLD, 2. WAR EAGLE, 3. ACASTER

7 BARALOY PLATE (DIV. I), (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 4-y-o & over, 5-00: 1. Divine Blessings (1) S. John 61, 2. Classic Charm (7) Trevor 60, 3. Tenali (5) Akshay K 59, 4. Flying Quest (4) Darshan 58.5, 5. Ocean Dunes (3) Mudassar 58, 6. The Response (10) Arvind K 58, 7. Knotty In Blue (8) Nazerul 57.5, 8. Unique Style (2) Jagadeesh 56, 9. Twilight Fame (6) Angad 54 and 10. Lady Supremos (9) Rayan 53.

1. TENALI, 2. DIVINE BLESSINGS, 3. CLASSIC CHARM

8 CAMINO PLATE (DIV. I), (1,400m), rated 00 to 25, 5-y-o & over, 5-30: 1. Altamonte (4) Darshan 62.5, 2. Another Rainbow (8) G. Vivek 62.5, 3. Eco Friendly (5) Arvind K 62.5, 4. Amazonite (7) B. Nayak 62, 5. She's Innocent (3) Chethan K 61, 6. Apollo Light (9) A. Imran 60.5, 7. Thunderstruck (2) Akshay K 60.6, 8. Fierce Fighter (6) Arshad 59.5, 9. Commandpost (1) Angad 59, 10. He's The One (11) Vinod Shinde 58.5, 11. Charmaine (10) Vishal B 57 and 12. Daring Sweetheart (12) S. Mubarak 56.5.

1. THUNDERSTRUCK, 2. ANOTHER RAINBOW, 3. ALTAMONTE

Day's best: **THEON**

Double: **BELDONA – ELECTRIC BLUE**

Jkt: 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8; Tr (i): 3, 4 and 5; (ii): 6, 7 and 8.

Bopanna, Middelkoop pair enters final

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU

Fourth seeds Rohan Bopanna and Matwe Middelkoop beat top seeds Marcel Granollers and Horacio Zeballos 3-6, 6-3, [10-3] to reach the final of the $1,911,620 ATP tennis tournament in Hamburg.

Other results:

$53,120 Challenger, Indianapolis: Doubles (semifinals): Purav Raja & Divij Sharan bt Robert Galloway & Alex Lawson 3-6, 6-3, [10-8].

€45,730 Challenger, Tampere, Finland: Doubles (semifinals): Karol Drzewiecki (Pol) & Patrik Niklas-Salminen (Fin) bt Sriram Balaji & Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan 4-6, 6-4, [11-9].

$15,000 ITF women, Monastir, Tunisia: Semifinals: Vaidehi Chaudhari bt Back Dayeon (Kor) 6-3, 7-6(11).

$15,000 ITF men, Monastir, Tunisia: Doubles (semifinals): Mohamed Ali Abibsi (Alg) & Filip Apltauer (Cze) bt Rithvik Choudary Bollipalli & Niki Poonacha 6-7(2), 6-1, [10-7].

$15,000 ITF men, Colombo: Semifinals: Quentin Folliot (Fra) bt Digvijay Pratap Singh 6-3, 1-6, 6-2; Manish Sureshkumar bt Eric Vanshelboim (Ukr) 4-6, 6-0, 6-3. **Doubles (final):** S.D. Prajwal Dev & Rishi Reddy bt Parikshit Somani & Manish Sureshkumar 7-5, 6-3.

Peyo runs to glory in the Karnataka Police Trophy

BENGALURU: S. Narredu-trained Peyo (Vinod Shinde up) won the Karnataka Police Trophy, the feature event of the races held here on Saturday (July 23). The winner is owned by Mr. Daulat Chhabria & Mr. S. Narredu.

1. SHA TIN PLATE (DIV. II), (1,200m), rated 00 to 25: **GOLDEN TIME** (G. Vivek) 1, Chain Of Thoughts (Shreyas S) 2, Perfect Halo (Likith) 3 and Regal Force (Tousif) 4. Not run: Top News. 9-1/4, 3/4 and 1-1/4. 1m, 15.04s. ₹53 (w), 18, 15 and 18 (p), SHP: 43, THP: 50, FP: 141, Q: 137, Trinella: 1,087 and 498, Exacta: 12,017 and 25,750. Favourite: Port Of Beauty. Owner: Mr. H.K. Lakshman Gowda. Trainer: V. Lokanath.

2. ABOLINE PLATE (1,400m), rated 20 to 45: **AGUILA** (Trevor) 1, Peridot (Akshay K) 2, The Strength (Vaibhav) 3 and Art Power (Vinod Shinde) 4. 1, 2-1/4 and 3-1/4. 1m, 27.83s. ₹15 (w), 12, 17 and 15 (p), SHP: 38, THP: 34, FP: 44, Q: 39, Trinella: 154 and 79, Exacta: 903 and 453. Favourite: Aguila. Owner: Mr. Deepak Kumar. Trainer: G. Aravind.

Distinguished gathering: The Meghalaya chief minister, and chairman of the Group of Ministers, Conrad Sangma (third from left), along with U.P. Finance Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna (fourth from left), and Goa Transport and Panchayati Raj Minister Mauvin Godinho (second from left) with the owner of Forty Niner H. Thambuswamy, trainer S. Dominic, jockey Akshay Kumar and TAI dignitaries. • K. MURALI KUMAR

3. S.G. MADHUKAR MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,200m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms): **QUEENSTOWN** (Akshay K) 1, Andorra (Hindu S) 2, Urban Borbon (Nazerul) 3 and Royal Grant (Rajesh K) 4. 1-3/4, 3-3/4 and 4-1/4. 1m, 14.24s. ₹13 (w), 11, 27 and 20 (p), SHP: 68, THP: 41, FP: 86, Q: 72, Trinella: 301 and 111, Exacta: 5,563 and 9,537. Favourite: Queenstown.

Owners: Manjri Horse Breed Farm Pvt Ltd & Mr. Hemant Dharmidharka. Trainer: Neil Darashah.

4. ABODE OF CLOUDS TROPHY (1,100m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms): **FORTY NINER** (Akshay K) 1, Tripitaka (P.S. Chouhan) 2, Slainte (Vinod Shinde) 3 and Solid Power (Darshan) 4. 3, 4 and 1/2. 1m, 07.68s. ₹23 (w), 10, 11 and 33 (p), SHP: 27, THP: 49, FP: 28, Q: 11, Trinella: 170 and 107, Exacta: 394 and 172. Favourite: Tripitaka. Owner: Mr. H. Thambuswamy. Trainer: S. Dominic.

5. KARNATAKA POLICE TROPHY (1,400m), rated 40 to 65, 4-y-o & over: **PEYO** (Vinod Shinde) 1, Promise Kept (Trevor) 2, Mountain Lion (G. Vivek) 3 and In A Breeze (Likith) 4. Lnk, 5 and 1-3/4. 1m, 25.33s. ₹115 (w), 23, 14 and 14 (p), SHP: 33, THP: 53, FP: 409, Q: 146, Trinella: 1,470 and 613, Exacta: 5,143 and 2,572. Favourite: Promise Kept.

Owners: Mr. Daulat Chhabria & Mr. S. Narredu. Trainer: S. Narredu.

6. MARILINGAIAH MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,200m), rated 40 to 65: **IMPERIAL POWER** (Suraj) 1, Devils Magic (Jagadeesh) 2, Kay Star (Trevor) 3 and Michigan Melody (Srinath) 4. 5-1/4, 3/4 and 1/2. 1m, 12.97s. ₹13 (w), 12, 32 and 17 (p), SHP: 96, THP: 39, FP: 207, Q: 266, Trinella: 517 and 241, Exacta: 3,238 and 1,873. Favourite: Imperial Power. Owner: M/S. Kunal Gupta Stud Farm LLP. Trainer: S. Narredu.

7. TUDOR JET PLATE (1,600m), rated 20 to 45, 4-y-o & over: **SPECTACULAR** (Salman K) 1, Sunshine Prince (Hindu S) 2, Star Domination (M. Naveen) 3 and Southern Power (Akshay K) 4. 11, 1-1/2 and Shd. 1m, 38.72s. ₹32 (w), 14, 29 and 24 (p), SHP: 73, THP: 52, FP: 372, Q: 381, Trinella: 2,390 and 827, Exacta: 8,562 and 3,669. Favourite: Embosom. Owners: Mr. M. Rishad, Mr. P.J. Vazifdar & Mrs. P.J. Vazifdar. Trainer: S. Padmanabhan.

8. SHA TIN PLATE (DIV. I), (1,200m), rated 00 to 25: **SUPER KIND** (Salman K) 1, Jersey Legend (S. Saqlain) 2, The Omega Man (Siddaraju) 3 and Speed Seven (Likith) 4. 2-1/2, 1 and 3. 1m, 15.18s. ₹42 (w), 16, 28 and 17 (p), SHP: 89, THP: 52, FP: 971, Q: 767, Trinella: 2,891 and 759, Exacta: 8,346 and 3,179. Favourite: Speed Seven. Owner: Mr. Rajan Aggarwal. Trainer: Pradeep Annaiah.

Jackpot: ₹22,854 (five tkts.); runner-up: 844 (58 tkt); treble (i): 539 (17 tkts.); (ii): 231 (86 tkts.).

India survives a close call, pulls off a thrilling win

Siraj, Shardul and Chahal combine to halt a spirited West Indian chase

INDIA IN WI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PORT OF SPAIN

Shikhar Dhawan made a well crafted 97 while Shubman Gill made a classy 64 in his One-Day International comeback and the Indians held their nerve to pull off a three-run win over the West Indies in the series opener here on Friday.

Openers Dhawan (97, 99b) and Gill (64, 53b) shared an 119-run stand before the West Indies fought back to restrict India to 308 for seven.

The West Indies needed 15 off the final over for a record chase at Queen's Park Oval but Mohammed Siraj was able to stop a rampaging Romario Shepherd (38 n.o., 25b). At the top of the order, Kyle Mayers (75 off 68) and Shamarh Brooks (46, 61b) raised West Indies' hopes with a 117-run stand for the second wicket before Brandon King (54, 66b) took the game deep. However, the West Indies fell short and ended at 305 for six.

Well done, mate! The Indians kept their cool in the face of the late West Indian assault to prevail in a humdinger. • AFP

Spectacular strokes

Shardul Thakur removed Mayers and Brooks earlier in the chase to bring India back into the game. The highly rated Mayers played some spectacular strokes.

Skipper Nicholas Pooran (25, 26b) came in and punished Prasidh Krishna with two flat sixes over deep square-leg and deep midwicket.

The hosts needed 60 off the last 90 balls and the 56-run stand between King and Akeal Hosein (32 n.o, 32b) kept India on the edge. However, Yuvzvendra Chahal came up with a timely breakthrough.

The home team was kept in the chase by Shephered and Hosein with a valiant partnership.

- Mayers and Brooks raised West Indies' hopes with a 117-run stand for the second wicket

SCOREBOARD

INDIA: 308/7 in 50 overs
WEST INDIES

Shai Hope c Shardul b Siraj 7 *(18b, 1x4)*, Kyle Mayers c Samson b Shardul 75 (68b, 10x4, 1x6), Shamarh Brooks c Shreyas b Shardul 46 (61b, 4x4, 1x6), Brandon King c Shreyas b Chahal 54 (66b, 2x4, 2x6), Nicholas Pooran c Prasidh b Siraj 25 (26b, 2x6), Rovman Powell c Hooda b Chahal 6 (7b, 1x4), Akeal Hosein (not out) 32 (32b, 2x4), Romario Shepherd (not out) 39 (25b, 3x4, 2x6); Extras (b-2, lb-7, w-9, nb-3): 21; Total (for six wkts. in 50 overs): 305.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-16 (Hope, 4.5 overs), 2-133 (Brooks, 23.4), 3-138 (Mayers, 25.5), 4-189 (Pooran, 35.1), 5-196 (Powell, 36.5), 6-252 (King, 44.3).

INDIA BOWLING

Siraj 10-0-57-2, Prasidh 10-1-62-0, Shardul 8-0-54-2, Axar 7-0-43-0, Hooda 5-0-22-0, Chahal 10-0-58-2.

MoM: Dhawan; *India won by three runs to take 1-0 lead in three-match series*; **Second ODI:** July 24 (Sunday), Queen's Park Oval, 7 p.m. IST.

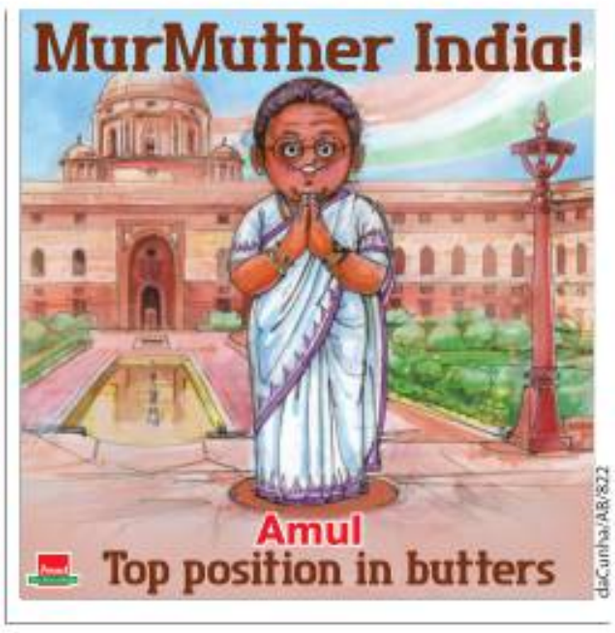
Disappointed not to score a century: Dhawan

'We got a good score in the end'

ANI
PORT OF SPAIN

Following his side's thrilling three-run win over West Indies in the first ODI, Indian skipper Shikhar Dhawan expressed disappointment of not being able to score a century.

Dhawan scored a brilliant 97 which also earned him the 'Man-of-the-Match' award. "Disappointed not to get the 100, but it was a good effort by the team. We got a good score in the end. There were nerves in the end and did not expect it to turn that way. We kept our cool and one small change in the end where we pushed the fine leg back and that really helped us. The discussion was to use the bigger side as much as we can and we want to keep on learning and make ourselves better for the rest of the competition," said Dhawan in a post-match presentation.



England thrashes South Africa

Topley sets the rot; Curran, Rashid, Moeen clean up

SA IN ENGLAND

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MANCHESTER

Reece Topley sparked a dramatic collapse as England hammered South Africa by 118 runs in the second One-Day International at Old Trafford on Friday to level the three-match series 1-1.

South Africa, chasing 202 for victory in a match reduced by rain to 29 overs per side, was bowled out for just 83.

Topley sparked a top-order slump to 27 for five during a spell of two for 17 in four overs.

Spinners Adil Rashid and Moeen Ali shared five wickets as South Africa was dismissed, with nearly nine overs remaining, for its second-lowest completed ODI total, behind a 69 all out against Australia at Sydney in 1993 and level with an 83 against England at Nottingham in 2008.

Man-of-the-match Curran. • GETTY IMAGES

The in-form Topley, rested from England's 62-run defeat in the first ODI at Durham on Tuesday, removed Janneman Malan and Rassie van der Dussen for ducks.

Sam Curran then bowled David Miller for 12 to leave the Proteas 27 for five inside nine overs.

SCOREBOARD

England: Jason Roy c Pretorius b Nortje 14, Jonny Bairstow b Pretorius 28, Phil Salt c Miller b Pretorius 17, Joe Root c de Kock b Pretorius 1, Moeen Ali c Nortje b Maharaj 6, Jos Buttler c Pretorius b Shamsi 19, Liam Livingstone c Miller b Nortje 38, Sam Curran c Markram b Shamsi 35, David Willey c Klaasen b Pretorius 21, Adil Rashid run out 12, Reece Topley (not out) 1; Extras (lb-5, w- 4): 9; Total (in 28.1 overs): 201.

Fall of wickets: 1-22, 2-52, 3-58, 4-62, 5-72, 6-101, 7-144, 8-167, 9-191.

South Africa bowling: Maharaj 6-0-29-1, Ngidi 5-0-39-0, Nortje 5.1-0-53-2, Pretorius 6-0-36-4, Shamsi 6-0-39-2.

South Africa: Quinton de Kock c Livingstone b Willey 5, Janneman Malan c Curran b Topley 0, Rassie van der Dussen c Buttler b Topley 0, Aiden Markram run out 0, Heinrich Klaasen st Buttler b Moeen 33, David Miller b Curran 12, Dwaine Pretorius c Roy b Rashid 17, Keshav Maharaj b Rashid 1, Anrich Nortje c Bairstow b Moeen 6, Lungi Ngidi c & b Rashid 0, Tabraiz Shamsi (not out) 5; Extras (lb-1, w-3): 4; Total (in 20.4 overs): 83.

Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-6, 3-6, 4-6, 5-27, 6-66, 7-67, 8-76, 9-77.

England bowling: Topley 4-0-17-2, Willey 4-1-9-1, Curran 2-0-5-1, Rashid 6-1-29-3, Moeen 4.4-1.22-2.

MoM: Curran; *England won by 118 runs to level three-match series 1-1.* **Third ODI:** July 24, Leeds.

LIVE TELECAST

Badminton: Taipei Open, Sports 18-1 & Voot Select, 9.30 a.m.
Sri Lanka vs Pakistan: 2nd Test, day 1, Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 10 a.m.
TNPL 2022: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 3.15 p.m. & 7.15 p.m.
England vs South Africa: 3rd ODI, Sony Six (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 3.30 p.m.
F1: French GP, SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 6.30 p.m.
West Indies vs India: 2nd ODI, FanCode & DD Sports, 7 p.m.
Archery World Cup: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 8.30 p.m. onwards.
World Athletics Championships: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), Sony LIV, World Athletics Facebook & YouTube channels, 5.30 a.m. (Monday).

IN BRIEF

Glamorgan's Northeast cracks unbeaten 410

LONDON

Glamorgan's Sam Northeast scored 410 not out (450b, 45x4, 3x6) in his side's mammoth score of 795 for five declared against Leicestershire in the English County Championship on Saturday. Northeast's total is the 11th individual score of 400-plus in the history of First Class cricket and is the highest of the 21st century. AFP

Kiwis sweep T20 series

BELFAST

Glenn Phillips' unbeaten fifty led New Zealand to a 3-0 Twenty20 series whitewash of Ireland with a six-wicket win here on Friday.

The scores: Ireland 174/6 in 20 overs (Paul Stirling 40, Lorcan Tucker 28, Mark Adair 37) lost to New Zealand 180/4 in 19 overs (Martin Guptill 25, Glenn Phillips 56 n.o., Daryl Mitchell 48).

Toss: Ireland; **MoM:** Phillips; *New Zealand won by six wickets and three-match series 3-0.*

Pro Kabaddi auction on August 5, 6

MUMBAI

Almost 500 players are likely to go under the hammer during Pro Kabaddi League's (PKL's) Player Auction here on August 5 and 6, ahead of its ninth edition. Each franchise has been allotted an auction purse of ₹4.40 crore for its squad.

McLaughlin takes gold in World record time

Peru's Garcia Lean completes race walk double; Miller-Uibo, Norman win 400m titles

WORLD C'SHIPS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
EUGENE

American Sydney McLaughlin set the World championships alight on Friday when she obliterated her own World record en route to gold in the 400m hurdles.

Meanwhile, Peru's Kimberly Garcia Leon won her second race walk gold, striding to victory in the 35km event.

Garcia Leon won the first-ever world medal of any kind for Peru when she claimed victory in last week's event-opening 20km race walk.

Total domination

In a consummate display, McLaughlin left a loaded field for dead from the gun, haring through to the tape in an astonishing 50.68s. It sliced more than half a second off her previous World mark of 51.41s set last month.

Femke Bol of the Netherlands took silver in 52.27s while defending champion Dalilah Muhammad of the United States took bronze in 53.13s.

The 400m race was won by two-time Olympic champion Shaunae Miller-Uibo of the Bahamas.

Miller-Uibo, who was deprived of gold in Doha in 2019 by Salwa Eid Nasr of Bahrain – since banned from the Tokyo Games and these championships after three missed doping tests – timed a world leading 49.11s.

The men's one-lap final was claimed by American Michael Norman, whose victory made up for a disappointing fifth at the Tokyo Olympics.

The results:

Men: 400m: 1. Michael Norman (USA) 44.29s; 2. Kirani James (Gre) 44.48s; 3. Matthew Hudson-Smith (GBR) 44.66s.

Women: 400m: 1. Shaunae Miller-Uibo (Bah) 49.11s; 2. Marileidy Paulino (Dom) 49.60s; 3. Sada Williams (Brb) 49.75s.

400m hurdles: 1. Sydney McLaughlin (USA) 50.68s; 2. Femke Bol (Ned) 52.27s; 3. Dalilah Muhammad (USA) 53.13s.

Javelin: 1. Kelsey-Lee Barber (Aus) 66.91m; 2. Kara Winger (USA) 64.05m; 3. Haruka Kitaguchi (Jpn) 63.27m.

35km race walk: 1. Kimberly Garcia Leon (Per) 2:39:16s; 2. Katarzyna Zdzieblo (Pol) 2:40:03s; 3. Shijie Qieyang (Chn) 2:40:37s.

Special message: Official mascot 'Legend the Bigfoot' celebrates McLaughlin's 400m hurdles triumph. • AFP

Annu Rani finishes seventh

SPORTS BUREAU

National record holder Annu Rani finished seventh with 61.12m in the women's javelin throw final at the World Athletics Championships in Eugene, Oregon, on Friday.

She had posted an identical mark while finishing eighth at the last Worlds. Rani had just one 60m-plus throw. She opened with a 56.18 and, after the 61.12 in her next effort, came close to the 60m mark again in her fifth attempt (59.98).

Australia's Kelsey-Lee Barber retained the title with a world-leading 66.91m, while China's Liu Shiying, the Olympic, Asian Games and Asian champion, was fourth with 63.25m.

Vingegaard on cusp of glory

Van Aert wins penultimate stage

TOUR DE FRANCE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ROCAMADOUR

Jonas Vingegaard survived a near fall on Saturday's individual time-trial to virtually wrap up the 2022 Tour de France title and now only needs to cross the Champs-Elysees finish line in Paris on Sunday to guarantee the champion's yellow jersey.

Team Jumbo's Vingegaard tops the overall standings 3min 34sec ahead of two-time defending champion Tadej Pogacar, while Geraint Thomas of Ineos Grenadiers, the 2018 winner, stands third at 8min 13sec.

Frenchman David Gaudu of FDJ and and Aleksandr Vlasov of Bora rouud out the virtual top five ahead of the final which is traditionally a ceremonial run.

Saturday's time-trial was won by Wout van Aert ahead of Danish teammate Vingegaard, meaning the team has six wins, the yellow jersey, the green sprint jersey and the polka dot climb jersey.

But on Saturday, Vingegaard flew down the ramp last of the 139 surviving riders and set a relentlessly high pace through the baking country roads meaning a battle of nerves with Pogacar never really emerged.

He did, however, suffer a late wobble, losing his back wheel which slid over gravel into a gutter, but just managed to right himself.

Go,go! Spectators egg on Van Aert as he pedals to victory in the 20th stage. • AFP

It was only a question of time, says Sindhu

'These wins are very important'

V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM
HYDERABAD

"I always had great belief in myself. It was only a question of time before I rediscovered the winning touch. I am glad that I did that in the recent Singapore Open, after a long break," said double Olympics medallist P.V. Sindhu.

"These wins are very important, particularly ahead of such a big event like the Commonwealth Games (in Birmingham from July 28). They mean a lot to me, a big confidence booster," the 27-year-old Sindhu said after her last training session at the Gachibowli Indoor Stadium before leaving for the CWG here on Saturday.

Biggest medal hope

"Hopefully looking to win the gold in the CWG. I will do my best," she said with a big smile. " I have been doing well, but losing in three sets in the semis and quarters. It is also important to stay fit mentally and physically," said Sindhu, who is now India's biggest medal hope in women's singles, with Saina Nehwal missing the bus.

Sindhu. • V.V. SUBRAHMANYAM

"It was just a question of time. Sometimes you need to understand that sometimes it is just not our day, have that hope and confidence that you can come back stronger," the former World champion said.

"M. Srikanth is my strength and conditioning coach. Physio Evangeline Baddam is there too. It is important to stay injury-free. It is critical to know what mistakes I make and work on them," Sindhu added.

"It was like a process where everybody worked together. I think that all came together and worked well in Singapore. I am hoping to repeat in the CWG too. Not only that, but I have to be more patient and consistent," she said.

Talukdar impresses before exiting

SPORTS BUREAU

Seasoned archer Jayanta Talukdar caused two upsets in a row before crashing out of the recurve men's individual competition in the Archery World Cup Stage-4 in Medellin, Colombia, on Friday.

Talukdar, placed 25th in the ranking round, saw off Olympics bronze medallist Mexico's Luis Alvarez 6-0 28-27, 30-28, 29-28) in the first round and American superstar and multiple World and Olympic medallist Brady Ellison 6-4 (29-27, 28-28, 30-29, 28-29, 29-29) in the second. However, Talukdar lost to another American Matthew Requa 6-4 (26-29, 26-25, 29-28, 28-30, 30-26) in the third round.

Dipti Kumari, who got the better of compatriot Aditi Jaiswal 6-0 in the opening round, was beaten by Italian Tatiana Andreoli 6-5 (10-8) in the second round of the recurve women's individual competition. Ishita made it to the second round, while Komalika Bari's campaign ended in the first.

India finished the fourth stage without a medal.

Leclerc drives to pole

Daruvala finishes second in Formula 2 sprint race

FRENCH GP

AGENCIES
LE CASTELLET

Charles Leclerc will start the French GP from pole position after edging out his World title rival Max Verstappen in qualifying on Saturday.

Verstappen's Red Bull teammate Sergio Perez qualified third-fastest, with Lewis Hamilton completing the second row.

Meanwhile in Formula 2, Jehan Daruvala finished second in the sprint race for the sixth podium finish of the season.

The 23-year-old Indian, who is backed by Red Bull and drives for Prema Racing, started from pole position and led for first 15 of the 21 laps before Carlin's Kiwi racer Liam Lawson overtook him.

Daruvala will begin the feature race on Sunday from the fifth row after finishing 10th in Friday's qualifying session.

The starting grid: Front row: Charles Leclerc (Ferrari), Max Verstappen (Red Bull); **2nd row:** Sergio Perez (Red Bull), Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes); **3rd row:** Lando Norris (McLaren), George Russell (Mercedes); **4th row:** Fernando Alonso (Alpine), Yuki Tsunoda (AlphaTauril); **5th row:** Daniel Ricciardo (McLaren), Esteban Ocon (Alpine); **6th row:** Valtteri Bottas (Alfa Romeo), Sebastian Vettel (Aston Martin); **7th row:** Alexander Albon (Williams), Pierre Gasly (AlphaTauri); **8th row:** Lance Stroll (Aston Martin), Zhou Guanyu (Alfa Romeo); **9th row:** Mick Schumacher (Haas), Nicholas Latifi (Williams); **10th row:** Carlos Sainz (Ferrari), Kevin Magnussen (Haas).

Note: Sainz and Magnussen start from back of the grid after having new engines fitted on their cars.

Leclerc. • AP